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34 Couples Married under mass marriage organised by Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department

The Hon'ble
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin inaugurated
the scheme to distribute
Rs.One lakh each to 500 women
auto drivers, as subsidy for the
purchase of new Auto-rickshaws,
on behalf of the Tamil Nadu
Unorganised Drivers and
Automobile Workshop
Workers Welfare Board,
at the Secretariat
on 10.07.2023.

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Inbam vizhaiyaan vinaivizhaivaan thankelir
Thunbam thudaithoondrum thoon ***-Kural 615***

He who does not seek his own pleasure but is intent on completing the task at hand, will wipe out the troubles of his kindred folk, friends and countrymen and support them like a pillar.

- From Kalaignar's commentary on the Kural

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
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presented them seervarisai and greeted them,
on behalf of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, at the Arulmigu Karpagambal Marriage Mandapam, at Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai on 07.07.2023.

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Ambitious project renamed 'Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme'

Hon'ble Chief Minister exhorts officials to implement Rs.1,000 a month scheme for women without hitches

> Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** at a meeting held at the Hon'ble Chief Minister's camp office on 07.07.2023, for the implementation of "Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme" of Rs.1,000 per month to women who need it.

At the outset, I welcome you all to this meeting. This is the first meeting to discuss about an ambitious scheme that is unique in the administrative history of Tamil Nadu.

We have assembled here to discuss about the scheme which is going to benefit generations of people. There is a common agenda for the Dravidian Model Government, which is implementing welfare schemes with the aim of 'everything for everyone', the Social Justice Principle that is guiding Tamil Nadu right from the Justice Party period to the present Government.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is the only one that is based on social justice not only at the national level but at the international level. It has a long history of setting up an egalitarian society by implementing various innovative and revolutionary schemes in the State.

A force that hinders Social development

Social justice is the uprising against social injustice. For many years, caste differences, based on birth and gender differences were the main forces that acted against social justice in the country. We all know that the Tamil society was very much affected due to reactionary thinking and actions for so many years.

I don't need to give you any explanation that caste and religion-wise differences affected the life style, identity and self respect of women, who constitute 50 per cent of society.

Right from the beginning, matriarchal societies have guided mankind. Even after inventing farm implements and becoming an agricultural society, the role of women was equal to men. But over the years, in the name of religion and reactionary ideas, women were confined to their homes. They were denied education. Their contribution was rejected. Many social reformers worked for removing the shackles that bound women and to regain their social and political emancipation.

'If a man from a higher strata of society beats a poor man, I will stand in support of the poor man and if a husband beats his wife even inside his house, I will stand in support of the women' asserted Thanthai Periyar. This principle of fighting for the underdog was implanted in the minds of people by him.

This principle was implemented through Government schemes by Perarignar Anna and Dr.Kalaignar. This resulted in more girl students excelling in education by taking up school and college studies.

Numerous schemes for women

The higher success rate of women in TNPSC examinations shows the mature growth of Tamil society. Many schemes have been implemented for the welfare of women, especially during the rule of Dr.Kalaignar

A resolution demanding equal rights for women on the property was adopted in the Rationalist Conference in 1929 and it was made as a reality in 1989 by Dr. Kalaignar through a law in 1989. This is the greatest gift of the Dravidian movement to women society.

During the rule of Dr. Kalaignar, from 1973, women were allowed to join the police force, which was till then a bastion of men.

Thirty per cent reservation was made for women in all Government jobs. As Dr.Kalaignar realized that Local Bodies are responsible for overall growth, the State, for the first time in the country, gave 33 per cent reservation for women in local body organisations.

For the families of poor women, he sanctioned free gas connection with stoves.

For women belonging to the depressed sections, he first made school education free and then made college education too free.

It was the D.M.K. Government that issued orders that only women teachers would be appointed in Government schools from classes 1 to 5.

Apart from these schemes, the D.M.K. Government implemented the Dr.Muthulakshmi Ninaivu Maternity Assistance Scheme, Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Ninaivu Marriage Assistance Scheme, Dr.Dharmambal Widow Remarriage Assistance Scheme, Anjugam Ammaiyar Ninaivu Inter-caste Marriage scheme and E.V.R. Periyar Maniammaiyar marriage assistance scheme for daughters of poor widows. All these women-oriented schemes paved the way for the upliftment of women.

Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme

To commemorate the memory of Dr.Kalaignar, who introduced many welfare schemes for the upliftment of women and implemented them and to add further distinction to his birth centenary celebrations, we feel that it will be appropriate to name the scheme as Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme.

My first signature after taking charge was fare-free travel for women in Transport Corporation buses. This has considerably reduced their daily expenses. The percentage of women passengers in Corporation Buses has increased from 40 per cent to 61 per cent.

This cost-free bus service has helped girls going for jobs, vendors selling vegetables, flowers and fishes, who travel for their daily earnings, women, who go for agricultural activities, college-going girls and women meeting their friends and relatives. Despite all these welfare measures, the country is in the 127th place among 146 nations in the gender equality index. The main reasons are the economic and educational status of women. Unless they improve their positions in these two fields, they will not get recognition in society.

Pudhumai Penn Scheme

That is the reason why the present Government introduced the 'Pudhumai Penn' Scheme. According to the scheme, Rs.1,000 per month will be given to all girl students who studied in Government schools from classes 6 to 12 and continue their higher education without any interruption. Nearly 2 lakh girl students benefit under the scheme. In this line, as another feather in the cap the Government has decided to introduce the Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam of Rs.1,000 per month for women. We have to recognize the services of women who, along with their family responsibilities, take up jobs to supplement their income.

Taking this into consideration, the D.M.K. in its 2021 election manifesto promised Rs. 1,000 per month to women. The present meeting is the first step in making the promise a reality.

In the last Assembly session, I announced that the Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, for one crore female heads of the family, would come into operation from September 15, as a great step in the direction of Social Justice.

Priceless Hardwork

The Scheme will be a model for other States. Under this scheme, women doing small businesses on the road sides, agricultural women workers, fisherwomen, women engaged in construction work, women employed in small shops, small trade and business, and women working as maids will benefit. We have allotted Rs.7,000 crore in the 2023-2024 budget to implement the scheme.

Subsequently, in today's meeting, the guidelines for the scheme have been clearly explained for the effective execution of the scheme. The role of each and every Department and the part of the District Administration have been clearly discussed. I hope that the G.Os and guidelines to be issued by the Secretariat on the role of every Government Department will be followed.

I request you to implement the scheme properly. Such a massive welfare scheme has not been implemented in Tamil Nadu so far. Taking this into consideration, this scheme should be implemented successfully. For this the role of District Collectors is crucial.

The scheme is to come into operation on the birth anniversary of Perarignar Anna, that is, from September 15. As only 2 months are left for the scheme to be implemented, I appeal to the District Collectors to work diligently to ensure that it works successfully.

One-and-a-half crore applications

The District Collectors, are authorized to identify the beneficiaries as per the guidelines, should be careful in identifying the beneficiaries as the number of applicants is expected to be one-and-a-half crore.

To receive the applications from the beneficiaries, special camps should be set up by the fair price shops. To avoid rush and any unfortunate incident during the collection of applications, sufficient protective measures should be taken by the District Administration. The District Collectors should ensure that the scheme reaches those on the margins of society, such as those living on road-side pavements, tribals, conservancy workers and destitutes. It should be ensured that such people, even if they do not have proper identity cards like Aadhar cards or family ration cards, should get the benefit by making arrangements to get them the needed documents.

The State Monitoring Committee, to be formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, will take steps to monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of the scheme. I firmly believe that through this great scheme the economic position of women in the State will improve substantially.

Magalir Urimai Thogai - Financial Assistance for one crore women

I am confident that this scheme will light a lamp in the lives of women. Through this wonderful scheme, let us make Tamil Nadu a premier State not only at the Union level but also at the international level. For achieving this, let us all work together.

It is easy to announce any scheme but execution is always difficult. If we plan properly, then the execution will also become easy. We must be particular that we execute our schemes well, for doing things well is as important as what we do.

I appeal to officials from higher levels to the lower level that the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme, which is a very great scheme, should be implemented without giving any room for complaints.

If you need any help or if you encounter any problem in executing the scheme, you can very well contact the Chief Minister's office or the Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, who is in-charge of implementing the scheme or even me at any point of time.

The assistance to be provided to women under the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme will be the lifeline for one crore women in the State. You should keep this in your mind and function with responsibility and focus.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

Qualifications to avail the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme

SI. No.	Guidelines	Qualifications
1.	**Guidelines for applying**	i. Women head of the family to become beneficiary of the scheme, must have completed 21 years of age, they should have been born before September 15, 2002. ii. For the scheme, Fair Price Shops are taken as the enumeration unit. Applicants must submit their applications only through the Application registration camp of the Fair Price Shops of their family ration card. iii. Only one applicant per ration card is qualified to apply for the scheme
2.	**Definition of female head of family**	i) All the members mentioned in the ration card will be considered as one family. ii) The woman head in every qualified family is eligible to apply for the scheme. iii) In the ration card, the woman mentioned as the family head will be taken as the woman family head. iv) If a male is mentioned as the head of the family, then his wife will be taken as women head of the family. v) If the name of women who is the wife of the family head is not mentioned in the ration card due to some reason, then one of the other woman members of the family will be considered as the woman head of the family. If there is more than one woman above 21 years in the family, then the family members can select one woman as the woman head of the family for availing the scheme. vi) If the family is headed by an unmarried, single women, a widow or a transgender, they will be considered as the women head of the family.

3.	**Economic qualifications**	The following 3 economic scales are fixed as the income criteria for availing the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam. i) Family income must be less than Rs.2.5 lakh per annum. ii) Family should not have more than 5 acres of wet land or 10 acres of dry land. iii) The power consumption of the family should be less than 3,600 units per annum. The income certificate or the land records need not be attached along with the application to establish economic qualification.
4.	**Exemptions**	Families with disabled persons, getting assistance for intellectual disability, highly affected disabled persons, Spinal cord, spinal cord disease, Parkinson disease, Muscular dystrophy and leprosy patients, who are already receiving maintenance amount through the Department of Differently-abled Welfare, are also eligible for applying for inclusion under the scheme. These categories, who fulfil other qualifications and are not disqualified under the guidelines in any other way, are eligible to apply for the scheme.

News in Picture

July 7: Birth anniversary of Rettaimalai Srinivasan

In connection with the birth anniversary of Rettaimalai Srinivasan, the Hon'ble Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Thiru. T.M.Anbarasan, honoured the great leader on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, by garlanding his decorated photograph, kept near his statue in the Gandhi Mandapam Complex in Guindy, Chennai on 07.07.2023. On the occasion, the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation Thiru. U.Mathivanan, MLA Thiru. A.M.V. Prabhakara Raja, Deputy Mayor of the Greater Chennai Corporation Thiru. M.Mahesh Kumar and the Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru. D.Mohan, I.A.S., were also present.

Hon'ble Chief Minister presides over marriages of 34 couples held by HR and CE Department

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** presided over the marriage of 34 couples, at a function at Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai, on 07.07.2023, on behalf of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the occasion:

The marriage of 34 couples, on behalf of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments is being held here with the blessings of all those gathered here. The marriages have been organized by the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Thiru. Sekar Babu, whom I affectionately call 'Seyal Babu'. For this, as usual, I congratulate him.

You all know that the Dravidian Model Government is marching majestically towards its goal of 'Everything for Everyone'.

The Dravidian Model Government is functioning based on the principle that people from all backgrounds should have representation in all Departments, especially education, industries, economics, society and religion.

No man should be discriminated against on the basis of caste. That is the reason this Government has brought the Act that all are eligible to become Temple Priests, irrespective of caste.

Today in Rajasthan, 17 persons, including 8 women, belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have been made priests. The Hon'ble Madras High Court has given a historic judgement that any qualified person can become an Archaka. This is our concept of 'everything for everyone', which is endorsed today not only by the court but by all states in the country. The present Government is marching towards this goal of everything for everyone.

You all know that the present Government is functioning under the concept that all Departments should have uniform growth. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is functioning extremely well by competing with other Departments in growth. This fact is known to all people in the country. We should not forget that the Justice Party was instrumental in forming the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, mainly to streamline the administration of temples.

Dr. Kalaignar, in the film 'Parasakthi', wrote that "we are not against temples but temples should not be the den of criminals". Dr.Kalaignar was very careful and cautious that there should not be any wrongdoing in the administration of temples. I am proud to say that the present Dravidian Model Government is functioning in the same way. It was a golden period for all departments during Kalaignar's period. Similarly the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department is creating a golden era at present.

At this juncture, I would like to list some of the achievements of this Department. After the advent of the D.M.K. Government in the State, Kumbhabishegam has been performed for thousands of temples as per the advice of the Tiruppani committee. There are 43,000 temples under the control of the Department. The Department has been directed to renovate the ancient temples without affecting their heritage. At the same time, basic and modern facilities

should be provided to the devotees who come to the temples. To undertake the renovation of temples, expert committees have been formed at the district and state level. Only after getting the permission of these committees, the renovation is cleared. As of now, permission has been granted by the expert committees for 3,986 temples to undertake renovation. The State Government has allotted Rs.100 crore for the renovation of 112 traditional temples, which are more than 1,000 years old, without affecting their heritage.

Four advisors have been appointed with headquarters in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli and Madurai to renovate temple tanks and to prepare a model for renovating tanks in temples. In a similar manner, a special advisor has been appointed to suggest ways for maintaining the old 'herbal' paintings in temples without affecting their heritage.

In the current financial year alone, 5,078 temples including 1,250 temples in SC and ST Colonies, and another 1,250 village temples are to be renovated and I made an announcement in this regard recently. In the previous regime, 1,000 village temples and temples in SC and ST colonies, which are not under the control of the HR and CE Department, were sanctioned Rs.One lakh each for renovation work. After coming to power, the present Government has increased the temples to 1,250 and the grant for renovation to Rs.2 lakh. For this, cheques for Rs.50 crore were handed over.

Conducting marriages, along with 'seer varisai' worth Rs.50,000, 'Kumbhabishegam' of 836 temples in the last 2 years, 'Annadhanam' in 764 temples, round-the-clock 'Annadhanarm' in 8 temples, Medical Centres in 15 temples, 'Oru Kaala Poojai' Scheme in 15,000 temples, and renovation of temple cars and building new temple cars are the measures carried out by the HR and CE Department. These schemes are extended every year with allotment of additional funds every year. Due to this, temples are in the best condition. Devotees feel overjoyous. That is what the present Government wants. This is the aim of the Dravidian Model Government.

Thanthai Periyar and Kundrakudi Adigalar used to say that there are temples around people and people around temples. Temples are there for doing good to people. It is based on this that we speak of seeing God in the smiles of the poor. It is with such a feeling that the marriages have been conducted for 34 couples on behalf of the temples.

This Department is not known as Hindu Religious Department. It is named as the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. That is the reason many good things are being done by the Department. I appeal to you to continue to do good things. I request the couples to give your children Tamil names and inculcate love for Tamil in them.

Thereby, I too along with you all wholeheartedly wish the newly wedded couples. At this juncture, I wish to affectionately ask the couple to name their children in Tamil and instill in them the Tamil feeling.

As Kavignar Pavendhar Bharadhidasan has pointed out, "As a lamp of your house, as one who serves the nation", you strive and work in your life, with this I take leave by extending my wishes. Nandri, Vanankkam.

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates Agri Business Festival - 2023, assures farmers of all support

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, declared open the Agri Business Festival - 2023 on 08.07.2023, inaugurated the exhibition stalls and handed over awards for farmers who excelled in marketing and setting up of Farmer Producer Organizations.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on 08.07.2023, declared open the Agri Business Festival-2023 at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, visited the pavilions of Farmer Producer Organizations and presented awards to the best performing farmers.

The State Government has announced various welfare schemes and successfully implemented them to improve the standard of living of farmers in the State. The Government’s aim is to improve the lives of farmers even as the economy of the State improves.

State-level exhibition for the Farmer Producer Organizations -Announcement of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department

In the demand for the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, it was announced

that a State-level exhibition for the Farmer Producer Organizations will be organized. Farmers Producer Organizations form the foundation for taking agriculture to the next level of growth and to market the value-added agriculture products.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the Agri Business Festival

The Government of Tamil Nadu is giving training and providing financial assistance for the farmers producer organizations to function profitably. As a part of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the Agri Business Festival - 2023 at the Chennai Trade Centre in Nandambakkam on 08.07.2023. Following that, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open the exhibition stalls of the Farmers Producers Organizations and went through the exhibition stalls.

Details of exhibition stalls

The Agri Business Festival has 176 exhibition stalls. Of these, 86 stalls exhibit the products of 188 Farmers Producers Organizations and 90 stalls, those of Agriculture Oriented Departments, Tamil Nadu Agriculture, APEDA, NABARD, business entrepreneurs, farmers producers organizations from other States, private institutions, exporters and banks.

These stalls exhibit various products including millets, traditional rice varieties, lentil varieties, oil seeds, palm products, aromatic products, vegetables, fruits, flowers, snacks of value-added millets and instant cooking products for the benefit of the public.

Awards for FPOs

In the function, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the Best Management Awards of the Farmer Producers Organization to Pudukkottai Organic Farmer Producers Organization, Pudukkottai and Kazhani Farmers Producer Company Ltd., Erode and the Best Marketing Award to Mangalore Millets Farmer Producers Organization, Cuddalore District, Veerapandi Kalanjiyam Jeevitham Farmer Producers Organization, Salem District and Thoothukudi Pulses Producers Organization, Thoothukudi.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over an award and a cheque for Rs.2 lakh to Thiru. M.Ramakrishnan, a farmer belonging to Panruti, Cuddalore District, for being the 'Best Agriculture Exporter for the year 2022-2023'.

Seminars on important topics

For two days, seminars were organized with the participation of experts in agricultural marketing to create awareness among farmers and the public on agriculture-based trade and for details about job opportunities in agriculture -marketing.

In the evening, a seminar was organized on how to skillfully manage Farmer Producer Organizations and on financial schemes for FPOs. Representatives of FPOs will benefit from the seminar.

The next day i.e., on 09.07.2023, seminars on 'Management after Harvest, Value Adding, Export Opportunities, the path of successful Farmer Producer Organization, Digital Marketing and Market Opportunities, Buyers-Sellers Meet' will be organized.

More than 5,000 farmers participated and benefited from the Agri Business festival.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu at the function:

My warm welcome to all of you.

I am extremely happy to inaugurate the Agri Business Festival-2023 for Farmer Producers Organizations. At this juncture, I am bound to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Thiru.M.R.K. Panneerselvam and his team of Government officials for successfully organizing the festival.

The growth of agriculture connected with the lives of agriculturists. The prosperity of a nation is measured on the scale of agriculture development.

According to Avvaiyar, when the height of the bund (of the reservoir) rises, the water level rises, when the water level rises, paddy production increases, when the yield of paddy is more, people flourish and when people flourish, the administration prospers and the King gains in power.

So if the rulers like us should get a good name, we should respect farmers and give them the proper respect so that they become prosperous.

After our Government came to power, I am able to see joy in the faces of agriculturists in the last 2 years.

Various new schemes

To give importance to agriculture, we submitted a separate budget for agriculture. We do not consider agriculture as yet another Department but as the primary Department. That is the reason why we are able to achieve this growth. We have also initiated many new schemes.

Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme,

Chief Minister's Dryland Development Mission, Tamil Nadu Mission on sustainable green cover in farm lands, Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water-Bodies Restoration and Management Project, Agriculture and Technology Management Agency, 'Mann Valam' portal to enable farmers know their soil fertility status, and scheme for making youths into entrepreneurs....The Government is taking forward these schemes for the benefit of farmers.

The soil has become more fertile, the people have become more prosperous. The area under cultivation has increased, and productivity has also increased. These are all due to various schemes executed by the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department.

We have registered a record in paddy production. Our food grains production has crossed 120 lakh metric tonnes, which is 11 per cent more than the previous year's production.

We have achieved 79 lakh metric tonnes of rice, and 36 lakh metric tonnes of millets. We also have 5 lakh metric tonnes of pulses, which is 4 per cent more than that of last year.

I am extremely happy to inform you that the Mettur Reservoir was opened either on June 12 or even before that for Kuruvai cultivation in Delta Districts. We have announced Rs.61 crore Kuruvai package for Cauvery Delta farmers. We have registered a record, not only in rice production but in production of millets and pulses. We also focussed our attention on cotton and coconut. We also provided agriculture gadgets, bank loans and subsidies to farmers in time.

Agricultural revolution

We looked at the paddy cultivation in the Cauvery Delta Districts with care. For the growth of agriculture in the Districts, we gave priority to de-silting of rivers and canals. All these things have resulted in a great agriculture revolution in Tamil Nadu. The present Agri Business Fest is a crowning event of these achievements.

Even though agriculture is the life and culture of Tami Nadu, it is yet to become a profit-making industry. The Government of Tamil Nadu organizes such festivals to make agriculture a profitable venture. It has not been organized as a mere Agri festival but as an Agri Business festival.

Farmers should not only be producers throughout their lives but they should also be traders. It is with this idea only, that Dr.Kalaignar launched 'Uzhavar Sandhai' during his period. Farmers benefited by selling their produce without an intermediary.

But the rulers who came subsequently did not give proper attention to these Sandhais. If they had done so, the lives of farmers would have changed. But we renewed 100 Uzhavar Sandhais after we came to power. Steps are on to set up 10 more such Sandhais in the State.

We have also set up units to produce green manure from the refuse of vegetables in these farmers markets. In the next phase, the Farmers Producer Organization was formed. For these organizations, capital assistance and credit guarantee was given. Government assistance to the tune of Rs.12.45 crore was given to 140 FPOs. Steps are being made to market their products through the Corporation market outlets. A Federation has also been formed.

This is a great initiative taken by the Agriculture Department, for the welfare of farmers. We have planned to increase the exports of agricultural products. For that we have computerized our operations. These initiatives will definitely improve the living standards of farmers.

Modern techniques in agriculture

It is really great that an agriculture festival is being held in an auditorium where normally many big industries hold exhibitions. This is a very great achievement.

The area under cultivation has to be increased. Through that production also has to be increased. Farmers should get remunerative prices for their products. The farmer should get the benefits of better prices. Consumers should get agricultural products at a reasonably fair price. Simultaneously, exports also must increase. We are organizing such an agriculture revolution in the State. For that we have conceived of many innovative plans and introduced them also.

Modern techniques should be introduced. For the last 2 years, we have been getting good rains, There has been no water problem and no shortage of agricultural labour. Farmers should make the best use of these factors. Our agriculture efforts must be able to cope with climate change even as they meet the increased food requirement.

We should adopt agricultural methods that are precise. We must use Smartphones to monitor agriculture operations. Now the use of Drones has come into force. We should make use of these innovations.

When we ask farmers to make use of new technologies, we must remember that they should be acquainted with such techniques. Officials should know about agriculture. If these two integrate then agriculture will become commercial. Festivals like these will form the basis for that. You must continue to organize such festivals. I have no doubts that these festivals initiated by the agriculture marketing officials will lead to more marketing opportunities for agriculture products.

Agriculture laws

Our Government is for protecting the interest of farmers. The Union Government, on the other hand, brought forward 3 laws, forcing the farmers to wage dharnas in the hot sun and withering cold for months in the capital. The B.J.P. Government was forced to withdraw the laws only after seeing the firmness of the agitating farmers. That is the anti-farmer B.J.P. Government for you.

On the other hand, the D.M.K. Government is always friendly to farmers. That is the reason why Dr.Kalaignar, immediately upon taking charge in 2006, waived agriculture loans of Rs.7,000 crore . The present Government, which is following the path laid down by Dr.Kalaignar, provided free agriculture power connections to 1.5 lakh agriculturists within one-and-a-half years of its rule.

Our farmers know all these facts. They have the duty to protect our agricultural lands and our people. The time for that is fast approaching.

Not only farmers, but all people should have agricultural knowledge.

Let us save the soil;

Let us protect the people.

Nandri, Vanakkam!

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects progress of work at memorial of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inspected the ongoing construction works at the Memorial of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar at Marina Beach, Chennai on 07.07.2023.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 'Chengai Sivam over-bridge' linking Pulianthope, Perambur

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru M.K. Stalin** inaugurated 'Chengai Sivam' over-Bridge at Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar in Chennai, on 01.07.2023.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on 01.07.2023, declared open additional classrooms in the Government Model Higher Secondary School, G.K.M. Colony, in Kolathur Assembly Constituency, a park and a library building at the Gowthamapuram multi-storied tenements of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Corporation, buildings for the Integrated Child Development Centre and a newly constructed over-bridge on the Stephenson Road in Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar Division, at a cost of Rs.69.78 crore.

Inauguration of classrooms

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 3 additional classrooms, with modern facilities, at a cost of Rs.One crore, for the Government Model Higher Secondary School in th G.K.M. Colony 12th street, with the financial assistance of the Mercantile Bank's Trust. On the occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed educational equipments to school students.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open completed works at the Gowthamapuram multi-storied tenements of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Corporation.

A park at the Gowthamapuram multistoried tenements of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Corporation, from the constituency fund of the Kolathur Assembly Legislator, at a cost of Rs.80.69 lakh, a part-time library at Ramana Nagar in Gowthamapuram, at a cost of Rs.40 lakh, from the constituency fund of the Rajya Sabha Member Thiru. N.R.Ilango and 2 Integrated Child Development Centres, at a cost of Rs.74.70 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared the above completed projects, totally costing Rs.1.95 crore.

New over-bridge named after Chengai Sivam declared open

With a view to link the Thiru.Vi.Ka. Nagar Division, Pulianthope and Perambur area, a new bridge of 830 metre long, at a cost of Rs.66.83 crore was thrown open for the public use. This bridge was constructed with the Investment subsidy fund and funds from other schemes. For constructing the bridge, a new bridge of 282 metre long and 22.70 metre breadth, was constructed at a cost of Rs.52.90 crore after demolishing the existing damaged old bridge across Otteri Nullah (canal). A 548-metre long approach road, central median, footpaths on both sides of the road, and provision for flower plants planting at the Central Median, totally costing Rs.7.13 crore and rain water drainage canals at a cost of Rs.6.8 crore have also been provided as support system for the over-bridge.

The works of constructing a rainwater canal from cooks road junction to Otteri Nalla Canal on this road during monsoon and in Dr. Ambedkar road to Otteri Nalla Canal to drain the rainwater stagnant in Pulianthoppu area have been carried out.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu named the new bridge on stephenson Road as "Chengai Sivam Bridge" in memory of former legislator Chengai Sivam and inagurated it for public use.

The new over-bridge will benefit the people in Perambur, Otteri, Pulianthope, Purasawalkam and Vepery areas, besides 70,000 vehicle drivers.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the function

I am happy to welcome you for this august function. I am really happy to participate in the inaugural function of the new bridge, which was planned and constructed in time, after demolishing the old damaged bridge across Otteri Nalla Canal at Gowthamapuram. I am really happy to participate in the function and meet you all.

A few months back, I declared open a new over-bridge, linking Kolathur and Villivakkam and Villivakkam and Anna Nagar. At that inaugural function, the District Secretary of the party and the Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Thiru. Sekar Babu and the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru. K.N. Nehru informed me that the newly constructed over-bridge on the Stephenson Road was ready for inauguration and if I give a date, the bridge could be inaugurated. I immediately accepted their demand. At that time, they also requested me to suggest a name for the bridge. I told them that it would be ideal to name the bridge after Chengai Sivam, who was the former Legislator of the then Perambur Constituency twice and whose memories are still fresh in our mind. They immediately accepted my decision. I am extremely happy to participate in the inaugural function of the bridge, named after Chengai Sivam.

A few months ago, when I declared open that bridge, I named it after former Mayor Chittibabu. Whenever over-bridges or sub-ways were declared open during Dr.Kalaignar's period, he used to name them after those who worked and sacrificed for the Dravidian Movement. Taking this into mind, I named this bridge after former MLA, Chengai Sivam, who worked for the development and growth of the DMK and who was instrumental in

implementing many welfare schemes for the people of the area. His services are still fresh in my memory. When he was a Member of the Legislature in 1989 and 1996, I was also an MLA. As a Legislator, Chengai Sivam functioned well for the growth and development of his constituency and to meet the aspirations of the constituency people. He was a perfect example of how a Legislator should function. The bridge, named after him, has been declared open today. If you move around Chennai, you will see that most of the bridges were constructed only during D.M.K. rule, that too when Dr.Kalaignar was the Chief Minister. Anna Flyover was constructed at a place known then as Gemini Circle. This bridge has completed 50 years. Similarly, the fly over at the Kathipara Junction, on the way to Meenambakkam from Saidapet, was also declared open by Dr. Kalaignar.

Whether it is Koyambedu Bridge or Semmozhi Park, Valluvar Kottam or the desalination plant at Nemili or the Tidel Park, they were all due to Dr.Kalaignar. The Omandurar Multi-Speciality Hospital, was once planned to house the Secretariat. Dr.Kalaignar conceived and constructed it for that purpose. But due to political vendetta the move to house the Secretariat was dropped. I don't want to go into the details as this is a Government function.

The Metro Rail project was conceived during our period. Today, it is being implemented to compete at the international level. Koyambedu Vegetable Market, Koyambedu Bus stand, Adyar IT Corridor, Namakkal Kavignar Maaligai, over-bridges at Padi and Meenambakkam, bridge at Moolakadai, West Anna Nagar Bridge, Vyasarpadi Bridge, Tholkappiar Park and

the rain water drainage throughout South Chennai at a cost of Rs.1,400 crore. Wherever you turn, you see structures that benefit the people of Chennai. They were all planned and implemented by Dr.Kalaignar to meet the requirements of people. The Anna Flyover constructed by Dr. Kalaignar today completed 50 years. He envisaged and implemented many schemes that will be remembered even after his time. The present Dravidian Model Government is only following the path laid down by him.

We have been implementing many schemes for the development of Chennai Corporation. The most significant of them is the storm-water drainage scheme which is being implemented. The Government realized how much people suffer during the rainy season. To alleviate the sufferings of people, Rs.3,184 crore has been allotted for the storm-water drainage scheme. The works are going on. Due to these works, you know how far the city was saved from floods last year. Earlier, when there were rains, the city was flooded. There was water everywhere and the rain water entered the houses. We shifted people from the flooded houses to safer places and provided food and other requirements. This was a routine problem during every rainy season. But the situation has changed now. I am happy to announce that the situation was changed by the Dravidian Model Government.

The works of the rain water drainage scheme are being implemented at a faster phase. Still some portions had been left incomplete. Due to these and the Metro Rail works, some of the roads were affected. We are aware of these things. I have directed the

officials to complete those left over works at the earliest.

In a similar manner we decided to renovate and upgrade the public parks which are widely used by the public. In the last 2 years, we allotted Rs.124 crore for these purposes. Due to these works, the parks have been converted into recreational areas where people can go with their families.

In continuation of this, the Chengai Sivam Bridge on Stephenson Road has been declared open by me today. It is the most crucial bridge for the people here. This bridge will be very useful to you. This bridge links Pulianthope and Perambur. As the earlier bridge was in very bad condition, we demolished it and constructed the new bridge.

This bridge has been constructed across Otteri Nullah (canal), at a cost of Rs.66.83 crore. Of this, Rs.52.90 crore is for the over-bridge, Rs.7.13 crore for the road on the bridge, approach road and park, and Rs.6.8 crore for rain water drainage work.

This bridge has been constructed so that there is no water logging during rains. For

draining the rain water stagnated during the rainy season from the Cooks Road Junction to Otteri Nullah (canal) and to drain water at Pulianthope between Dr.Ambedkar Road to Otteri Nullah, rain water drainage works have been undertaken.

The construction of the bridge will benefit people in Perambur, Otteri, Pulianthope, Purasawalkam and Vepery. According to officials, about 70,000 vehicles cross this point daily. So this Stephenson Road Bridge will be very useful for the people in this area.

I hope you have not forgotten that I was the Mayor of Chennai for two terms. During my period only, the Corporation started constructing over-bridges. Till then only the Highways and PWD were constructing bridges. There was no history of bridges having been constructed by the Corporation. After I was elected as the Mayor by the people, I started getting involved in this aspect. We decided to construct 10 bridges. Of these there was a delay in constructing one bridge due to technical problems. The construction was delayed for some time. Normally, the PWD, or Highways Departments make estimates before constructing a bridge, building or any construction. But at the time of completion, mostly there will be cost overrun due to various reasons due to increase in price of materials, or time delay in construction work. But I am proud to say that these 9 bridges were completed not only well ahead of time but also the total cost of construction was less than the estimate. That was a record in the history of the Greater Chennai Corporation. This, all of you know.

Whether it is bridges, or roads, storm water drains, this Government is providing to the people not only for their present needs but for the future requirements also, taking into consideration the possible population expansion.

Infrastructure development is the most important for the growth of a State. We are doing that extremely well. I have never forgotten an incident in my life, which is ever fresh in my memories. Even today it has come to my memory. When I was a small boy, we were living in Kodambakkam. Though Kalaignar was in politics, he used to write cinema dialogues. In those days, cinema studios were mostly in Kodambakkam. There was no over-bridge and only a railway level crossing gate. Even big film producers, actors and directors, had to wait at the level crossing for the railway gate to open. Sometimes, the gate would be closed for half an hour or one hour. People have to wait for a long time. Muthamizharignar Kalaignar too had to cross the gate many times, waiting for the gates to open.

When I was a child, I accidently swallowed a safety pin, a safety pin that was open. People in my house made various attempts to take out the pin and gave me a banana without success. Finally they decided to take me to a doctor. But they were stranded at the Kodambakkam railway gate. Only after the gate was opened, we made our way to the hospital. At the hospital, they removed the pin, which was still in the open position. Dr.Kalaignar said that, I had survived after swallowing an iron pin. At that time, he decided to name me after the Soviet leader Stalin, who had a heart of steel. These incidents have been mentioned by Dr.Kalaignar in his Nenjukku Needhi.

I am mentioning all these things now to show in what manner Dr.Kalaignar felt about people who suffered due to frequent closure of the gate. So, Dr.Kalaignar thought that an over-bridge should be constructed to replace the gate. After that only, the Kodambakkam over-bridge was constructed. Not only there, in many places in Chennai and in many places in Tamil Nadu, wherever necessary, over-bridges were constructed. As Minister Sekar Babu said in his speech earlier, the Dravidian Model Government is serving like a bridge for delivering good things to the people. You must always stand behind this Government.

Chengai Sivam worked with dedication in this locality, for the party, for the public and for society in general. You must cherish the same feeling, fulfil your duties and forever stand behind this Government. This is the affectionate request that I make of you. With these words, I conclude my speech. ■

Rs.170.31 crore for 50,202 beneficiaries in Salem District

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 390 schemes completed at a cost of Rs. 1,367.47 crore

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** distributed welfare assistance to beneficiaries at salem - 11.06.2023

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, at a Government function at the Karuppur Government College of Engineering, Salem, on 11.06.2023, inaugurated 390 schemes, completed at a cost of Rs. 1,367.47 crore, laid foundation stones for 331 new projects, to be executed at a cost of Rs.236 crore and distributed welfare assistance worth Rs.170.31 crore, to 50,202 beneficiaries.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, who arrived at Salem on 10.06.2023 to participate in various functions, including opening of the shutters of Mettur Reservoir, declared open a statue of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, at a height of 16 feet and on a pedestal of four feet, on a 1,817 sq. ft. area at the Perarignar Anna Park in Salem Town. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the renovated Muthamizharignar Kalaignar Central Bus stand, the renovated Nehru Auditorium, Periyar Super Market, V.O.C. Market and Commercial Complex at Bose Maidan, under the Smart City Scheme, at a total cost of Rs.96.53 crore.

At a Government function, the Hon'ble Chief Minster inaugurated the following completed projects in the Karuppur Government College of Engineering, in Salem District

On behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, under the Smart City Scheme, renovation works of old bus stand, Periyar Perangadi, Bose Maidan, V.O.C. Market and Nehru Auditorium, multi-storied vehicle parking complex, two-wheeler and 4 wheeler parking complex in Hanging Garden multi-purpose auditorium, multi-storied parking complex in Ananda Bridge, renovation of Pallapatti Eri, under the Namakku Naame Scheme, additional class buildings in Manacaud Girls' Higher Secondary School, additional classrooms in Kalarampatti High school and new additional buildings for the Urban Primary Health Centres in Arisipalayam, Thathagapatti, N.G.G.O. Colony and Old Suramangalam, all at a total cost of Rs.245.18 crore.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department:

Under All Village Anna Marumalarchi Scheme, Cement Roads, Concrete Roads, Sewerage Drainage Schemes, Suction holes, Small Bridges, Paver Block, Sheds, Drying yards, Threshing yards, Shandy Development work, Bus stand roofing, New Anganwadi Building, Walking Tracks, New Children Centre, New Waiting Halls in Burial Grounds, New over-bridge under NABARD Scheme and Kitchen building, at a total cost of Rs.36.40 crore.

On behalf of TWAD Board:

Under the Elampillai Combined Drinking Water Supply Scheme providing drinking water to 5 Town Panchayats, Elampillai, Attayampatti, Panamarathupatti, Mallur and Edanganasalai and under the Combined Drinking Water Supply Scheme for 778 rural habitations, providing drinking water to 301 habitations in the Salem, Veerapandi and Panamarathupatti Panchayat Unions in the first phase.

Highways Department:

Converting the Omalur-Mecheri Highways into 4-way lane, and Road over-bridge, high-level flyover, over-bridge and small bridge works on the Salem Magnesite and Omalur Railway Station Road, at a total cost of Rs. 293.84 crore.

Law Department:

A permanent building with male and female hostels for the Salem Government Law College at a total cost of Rs.101.55 crore.

Revenue and Disaster Management Department:

District Disaster Relief Centre at Salem Steel Plant at a cost of Rs.3.98 crore.

Commercial Taxes and Registration Department:

An integrated Commercial Tax Office building at Athur at a cost of Rs.1.80 crore.

Animal Husbandry Department:

Veterinary Hospital Buildings at Kammalapatti, Magudanchavadi and Chettiyur and a semen bank at Pallipatti, at a total cost of Rs.2.30 crore.

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department:

Sub-Agriculture Extension Centres at Mettur and Thevur at a total cost of Rs.76 lakh.

Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department:

Hostel and Dining Hall at the Salem Government Women Industrial Training Institute at a cost of Rs.3.20 crore.

School Education Department:

Art and Handicrafts and Computer Rooms, Laboratories and Compound Walls for Government Higher Secondary Schools in Vanavasi, Katchupalli, Dadapuram, Vellarivelli, Attayampatti and Chettimankurichi, at a total cost of Rs.4.82 crore.

Health and Family Welfare Department:

Housing Quarters for medical assistants of Government Primary Health Centres in Koneripatti, new health welfare centres in Nainampatti and Mallikundam, Opthalmology ward with eye-surgery section at the Athur Government Hospital and Doctors quarters with community centre at Poolavari Primary Health Centre, at a total cost of Rs.3.34 crore.

Fire and Rescue Services Department:

New building for the Fire and Rescue Service Staion at Gangavalli at a cost of Rs.1.22 crore.

Prison Department:

Housing Quarters for Assistant Jailor and Prison officials in Omalur, at a cost of Rs.2.77 crore.

Water Resources Department:

Supervisor Office to monitor the pumping of surplus water from the Mettur Reservoir to Dry Tanks in Sarabanga Watershed at a cost of Rs.2.75 crore.

Transport Department:

Motor Vehicle Inspector's Office at Vazhapadi, at a cost of Rs.1.63 crore.

Co-operative Department:

New office buildings for the Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies of Kalparapatti and Lakshmayur, Godowns for the Agriculture Producers Co-operative Sales Societies in Salem and Athur and New Buildings for Fair Price Shops in various places, at a total cost of Rs.9.09 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 390 works, completed at a cost of Rs.1,367.47 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stones for various new schemes:

Works for new bus stand at Edappadi and Mettur from the Municipality Infrastructure Fund and Renovation and beautification of Bodinaickenpatti lake, Allikuttai lake and Mookkaneri lake at a total cost of Rs.63.40 crore.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department:

298 road works under the Mudhalvarin Grama Saalaigal Membattu Thittam, high-level bridges across Uthamacholapuram - Tirumanimutharu and Thennangudipalayam and Vasishta River, at a total cost of Rs. 159 crore.

New Tahsildar Office building with quarters for Talaivasal, at a cost of Rs.4.95 crore, on behalf of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department.

Co-operative Department:

Agriculture shop, Compound Wall,

Grains Godown, Fertilizer Godown, Drier Field, Agriculture products sales Centre and modernization of Godowns for that Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Societies at a total cost of Rs.8.48 crore. Totally, foundation stones were laid for 331 new works to be executed at a total cost of Rs.236 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occasion distributed Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries.

Under the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, saplings of fruit trees, coconut seedlings, tarpaulins, sprayers, agriculture implement packs, power tillers, tractors and rotavators were distributed to 11,118 beneficiaries under the Kalaignar All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Scheme. Under the Co-operative Department, 10,441 beneficiaries got crop loans, women self-help group loans and under women planning scheme, self-help group loans to 10,052 groups, free pattas on behalf of the Revenue Department, District Backward Class and Minorities Welfare Department, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, caste certificate to tribal, cost-free iron boxes, sewing machines, power tiller, Tribal Welfare Department ID cards, old age pension to 6,837 beneficiaries on behalf of the Social Security Department. On behalf of the Food and Consumer Protection Department, new e-ration cards to 1,000 beneficiaries, on behalf of the Youth Welfare and Sports Development Department cash prices to 1,753 sportspersons, who won in various events in the Chief Minister's Cup, on behalf of the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department, Educational, Marriage, Natural Death and Accident Death Assistance to 1,116 beneficiaries, on behalf of the Social Welfare Department cost-free sewing machines and on behalf of the girl child protection scheme, fixed-deposit certificates to 970 beneficiaries.

Under the Rural Development Department, welfare measures, including Prime Minister's houses to 5,721 beneficiaries, on behalf of

the Health and Family Welfare Department, nutrition packs to 531 beneficiaries under the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity assistance scheme, on behalf of the Department for the Welfare of the Differently-abled persons, three wheeler petrol scooters and special scooters to 250 beneficiaries, on behalf of the Social Defence Department, assistance to the children of 46 families, who lost both their parents in the Corona pandemic from the Chief Minister's Welfare Fund and the Financial Support Fund, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board allotment letters for 20 beneficiaries, on behalf of the District Industries Centre, Capital subsidy assistance and NEED's assistance, on behalf of the TAHDCO vehicles to 5 beneficiaries, on behalf of the Forest Department, revolving fund loans to 330 beneficiaries, totally 50,202 were given welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.170.31 crore by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister was given a rousing reception on his way to the venue of the function by people lined up on both sides of the road. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also received petitions from the public on their representations.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the event:

My warm welcome to all of you.

Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, who spoke earlier talked about the massive crowds that had gathered for the meeting. This is due to Hon'ble Minister K.N.Nehru, who has converted the meeting into a conference. The Rockfort hero Nehru has today convened people's fortress in Salem! I thank and congratulate the District Collector, his subordinates and the people's representatives, who stood with the Minister in successfully organizing the meeting.

Muthamizharignar Kalaignar is the architect of modern Tamil Nadu. At the inauguration of his birth centenary celebrations, I am happy to address the meeting after declaring open the statue of Dr.Kalaignar in Salem. A statue of Dr.Kalaignar was declared open in Salem town on 27.08.2019, on behalf of the D.M.K. Now, another statue of Dr.Kalaignar has been inaugurated today at Perarignar Anna Poonga, on behalf of the Salem Corporation.

Dr. Kalaignar is a flower that exudes fragrance from the garden of Anna. The relationship between Salem and Dr.Kalaignar is a family relationship. It is Salem which made Kalaignar a full-fledged film writer. Even today, the gateway of Modern Theatres stands majestically in Salem. The owner of Modern Theatres, who was also a film producer and director, T.R.Sundaram, brought Dr.Kalaignar to Salem and appointed him in his studio with a monthly salary of Rs.500.

Dr.Kalaignar accepted the offer only after getting an assurance from the late Sundaram that his employment with the Modern Theatres should not in any way affect his party and public activities. During his association with Modern Theatres, the film Manthiri Kumari of Kalaignar was released. It is during that period, that the D.M.K came into existence in the year 1949. It is a fact of history that for the inaugural function, Kalaignar went to Chennai from Salem.

International recognition for Salem Steel plant

It is to such an extent, that the life of Dr.Kalaignar is part of Salem. It is therefore

appropriate that the first statue of Dr.Kalaignar in his birth centenary celebrations has been declared open here today. I can boldly say that during his rule, Dr.Kalaignar gave many welfare schemes for Salem District, in association with his then Cabinet colleague Veerapandiyar. Now also, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru. K.N.Nehru, the Minister incharge of Salem District got more allotment for this District than his native district Tiruchirapalli, and is implementing more welfare schemes in the last 2 years. More schemes are in the offing than those listed by Thiru. Nehru in his speech.

Here, I would like to list out some of the schemes for Salem District by the D.M.K. in its previous regime. The Salem Railway Division, which was the dream of Salem people, Periyar University, Government Arts College for Women in Salem, Government Arts College in Athur, raising the level of Salem Steel Plant to international plant, at a cost of Rs. 1,553 crore, into a cold rolling plant, Rs.136 crore Super Speciality Hospital, Tapioca and Castor Research Station, Yethapur and the new Collectorate buildings. The list is endless.

The present Government is for implementing more schemes for the District. At a Government function at Seelanaickenpatti on 11.12.2021, I announced projects worth Rs.1,242 crore for the Salem District.

I laid the foundation stone through video conferencing on 19.05.2023 for a mini Tidel Park in Salem District on an area of 55,000 sq.ft. This park is to come up in Yanaigoundanpatti and Karuppur area, at a cost of Rs.29.50 crore. For the Park, the Government has allotted 15 acres of land.

Textile park at Ammapalayam Village

Salem District excels in anklets manufacture. I announced a manufacturing centre for anklet makers who want to start the industry immediately. The foundation stone has been laid and works are going on. Similarly, I announced a Textile Park on 11.12.2021 for Salem District, which will spur industrial growth and facilitate employment for thousands of youth in Salem District.

For the Textile Park, 119 acres of land in Jagir Ammapalayam have already been identified and the allotment of land for the Park is at the finishing stage.

I am happy to announce to the people of Salem in this meeting that the structural work for the park is to start soon.

Multi-purpose sports stadium

As already announced, renovation of Bodinaicken lake, Allikuttai lake and Mookaneri lake will be undertaken. Through this meeting, I am happy to announce that the renovation work has started with an allotment of Rs.52 crore.

To reduce the traffic congestion in the Ammapet area, a railway over-bridge is to be constructed at a cost of Rs.120 crore to meet the long-pending demand of the people of the area. Preparatory works for construction of an over-bridge have started.

Steps are being taken for constructing a multi-purpose sports stadium, costing Rs. 20 crore. With a view to make reality, the 75-year old dream of the tribal people of Palamalai area, work started on 03.04.2023 for a 17.2 km-long bitumen road at a cost of Rs.31.53 crore.

As far as this Government is concerned, the Government will do what it has promised and speak of what we have achieved.

After the formation of the Government, we have been touring various Districts and have inaugurated completed schemes, laid foundation stones for new schemes and distributed welfare measures to the beneficiaries.

We have completed one round of touring the Districts. Now we have started the second round of tour from Salem District.

Muthamizharignar Kalaignar Centenary Bus Stand

On this day, I am also inaugurating the Elampillai Combined Drinking Water Supply Scheme for 5 Town Panchayats -- Elampillai, Attayampatti, Panamarathupatti, Mallur and Edanganasalai and to 301 habitations out of 778 Panchayats in the Salem, Veerapandi and Panamarathupatti Panchayat Unions in the first phase.

A permanent building for the Salem Government Law College with hostel facilities for men and women at a cost of Rs. 101.55 crore was declared open.

The old bus stand has been renovated and converted into a two-tier bus stand, at a cost of Rs.96.53 crore. The renovated bus stand has been named Muthamizharignar Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Centenary Bus stand and been declared open today.

Today alone, 390 schemes have been completed at a cost of Rs.1,367 crore and thrown open for the public use. These include renovation of Periyar Perangadi, Commercial Complex in Bose Maidan, V.O.C. and Nehru Auditorium. Foundation stones have been laid for 331 new schemes to be executed at a cost of Rs.236 crore.

To top it all, welfare measures are to be distributed to 50,202 beneficiaries, to the value of Rs.170 crore, on behalf of 23 Government

benefiting Rs.1.97 crore consumers. Under the scheme for new agriculture power connections, 6,750 new connections have been given, benefiting farmers. The list of welfare schemes implemented by the Government is endless.

To top it all, with a view to improve the standard of living of farmers, we are going to open the Mettur Reservoir tomorrow for the Kuruvai Cultivation in the Delta Districts.

It gave us immense pleasure, when speakers proudly claimed that for the third year in succession the Mettur Reservoir has been opened on the scheduled date or before it for Kuruvai Cultivation in Delta Districts. Personally I am happy because I also belong to a Delta District. The present Government is eager to implement various projects for the development of Salem District. That is why we have put Thiru. K.N.Nehru incharge of the District and handed over the responsibility to him.

You all know how far the State was ruined for 10 years. The A.I.A.D.M.K. Government blindly signed on the dotted line as directed by the Union Government.

Number One Tamil Nadu

We lost the privilege over our finances because of GST collections. Due to this we don't have sufficient funds. We are suffering because of lack of funds. As the previous Government accepted the UDAY Scheme, we had to raise electricity charges.

Departments. This is really a happy occasion where benefits are given to 50,202 families on a single day.

The Dravidian Model Government is functioning in the State by keeping in mind the development of all sections of people.

The schemes inaugurated by the Government today will benefit all sections of people in Salem District. In this District alone, women were benefited by more than 11 crore trips due to fare-free bus travel.

New power connections

Under the breakfast scheme, 7,953 children are getting breakfast. Under the Pudhumai Penn Scheme, 17,000 girl students are getting a monthly stipend of Rs.1,000 in Salem District. Various welfare measures, worth Rs.40.90 crore, were distributed to 17,093 Differently-abled persons, the highest in the State. Through 11 Uzhavar Sandhais in the District, 3,46,675 farmers sold vegetables

The Government found itself in a piquant situation, as it had to manage the financial situation without affecting the common men. We have reduced the revenue deficit and at the same time we inaugurated many new schemes. We have not stopped any new schemes citing financial constraint.

If you see the number of schemes in the last 2 years, you can find that they are sufficient for over 5 years.

In the first year of rule, people used to call me the Number 1 Chief Minister among CMs of all States. At that time I said that I would feel proud if my State was called Number 1 in the country instead of myself being called the Number 1 Chief Minister. Today we have got that credit. I don't think that it was due to my efforts alone. It was due to the combined efforts of my ministerial colleagues, Government officials and people representatives.

To attract foreign investors, I recently toured Japan and Singapore and MoUs were signed for Rs.3,000 crore investment. Many industrial units have shown their interest in participating in the Global Investors Meet, to be held in January 2024.

In India, Tamil Nadu and particularly Chennai has become the favored destination for international investors. Some of the Japanese industries are already in Tamil Nadu. They need no introduction to Tamil Nadu. But for them, we have to inform them that the dispensation in the State is not like the previous 10-year regime but a congenial situation for investment prevails under the Dravidian Model Government in the State. But as a part of Tamil culture we invited the investors personally as nobody comes to your house without an invitation.

Investor's Meet

We have to show the investors the congenial atmosphere prevailing in the State, the progressive schemes being implemented, the State's progress for a prosperous future and our skilled youth. Only then will the prospective investors come to Tamil Nadu. Those who are coming for the conference will review the infrastructure available in the State on their own and take the decision for investment. But the crowd that is set on spoiling the pitch for Tamil Nadu, will present this in a cheap manner. They know only to destroy, they don't know how to build. They will do only those things. Let them do so. I am not concerned about them.

Let those who praise our actions do so and those who criticize us do so. I am following the path of Dr.Kalaignar. I don't have enough time for serving the people. I don't want to waste time replying to those who are more of a malady afflicting the people. In the one year period that we celebrate the centenary of Kalaignar, let us implement various welfare schemes so that people feel that it is only Kalaignar's Rule that still prevails in the State. That is why we announced that the birth centenary of Kalaignar will be celebrated for one year and we are doing it. As per the views expressed by Ministers and MLAs, I appeal to you to support this Dravidian Model Government as it is waiting to implement more welfare schemes for you. I would like to reiterate this only. With these words, I conclude my speech due to short of time.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon’ble Chief Minister constitutes 12 groups to address Dr.Kalaignar’s multi-faceted contribution

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** issued orders for constituting groups under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Ministers, for celebrating the birth centenary of Dr. Kalaignar.

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The Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to celebrate in a grand manner from June 2023 to June 2024, the birth centenary of Dr.Kalaignar who has been the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu five times, contested successfully to the Assembly 13 times and was also a Member of the Legislative Council once. Dr.Kalaignar is an important figure not only in Tamil Nadu politics but also a game changer in national politics. The year-long celebrations will bring out the multi-talented personality of Dr.Kalaignar and his various welfare schemes for the people of Tamil Nadu and will enable the coming generation to know about him.

To celebrate the birth centenary of Dr.Kalaignar in a grand manner, an advisory meeting was held at the Secretariat on 22.05.2023, under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

At the meeting, the Hon’ble Chief Minister said, the celebrations should not only be functions to glorify the greatness of Dr. Kalaignar but also as an occasion to enable the younger generation to know about various welfare measures and schemes announced and implemented by him during his period.

Every month a function should be organized on a fixed topic not only on a big scale but also as functions in which all sections of people participate. These functions should be organized in co-ordination with the Universities, Colleges, Schools, Students and Women.

In continuation of the meeting, at a function held in Kalaivanar Arangam on 02.06.2023, the Hon’ble Chief Minister released a Logo for the centenary celebrations and a short film on the achievements of Dr.Kalaignar.

Dr.Kalaignar is a multi-faceted personality and to celebrate his various dimensions, the Hon’ble Chief Minister ordered formation of 12 groups under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Ministers and consisting of additional members, member-secretary and members. These groups will conduct seminars under various heads and each group will be assigned a particular topic.

These heads are: Kalaignar - The Journalist; Kalaignar - The Writer; Kalaignar - The Artist; Kalaignar - The Protector of Social Justice; Kalaignar - The Repository of culture; Kalaignar - The Supporter of the Poor; Kalaignar - The Stalwart of the Assembly; Kalaignar - The Rationalist and Reformation Champion; Kalaignar - The Architect of Modern Tamil Nadu; Kalaignar - The Head of Organizations; Kalaignar - The Far-sighted thinker and Kalaignar - the Eldest Son of Tamil Thaai.

These groups will co-ordinate with Universities, Colleges, Schools, Students and the beneficiaries of Kalaginar’s welfare measures in organizing the meetings to pay tribute to the multi-faceted personality of Dr.Kalaignar. They will also plan how these meetings should be successfully organized along with the Government.

Hon’ble Chief Minister releases Mettur water, requests farmers to work for maximum yields

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin, opened the sluices of the Mettur Reservoir at Mettur on 12.06.2023, for water supply to Kuruvai Crops in the Cauvery Delta areas.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister arrived at Salem on 10.06.2023, to participate in various Government functions, including opening of the Mettur Reservoir for release of water for Kuruvai Crop Cultivation in the Cauvery Delta Districts. The next day on 11.06.2023, the Hon’ble Chief Minister declared open a newly installed Anna Statue at the Arignar Anna Park in Salem Corporation, inaugurated completed schemes, laid foundation stones for new projects and distributed Government welfare measures to beneficiaries, at a function at the Government College of Engineering, Karuppur. On the next day, June 12, the Hon’ble Chief Minister, on his way to Mettur in Salem District, personally inspected the Thanthai Periyar Samathuvapuram at Nangavalli.

In continuation of this, the Hon’ble Chief Minister released water from the Mettur Reservoir on May 12 for the purpose of irrigation of Kuruvai Crops in the Cauvery Delta areas.

Last year, a record was created in the history of Free India, as the Mettur Reservoir was opened in the month of May itself, that is, on May 24, for Kuruvai Crops in the Delta Districts.

The water level at the Mettur Reservoir as on June 12, this year, was 103.35 ft. and the storage was 69.252 tmc. This is the 19th time that the reservoir has been opened on the scheduled date of June 12 for Kuruvai irrigation in the Delta Districts.

Kuruvai Crops in the Delta Districts require about 125 tmc. of water from June 12 to September 12 to irrigate 5,26,000 acres of land. For this, the Mettur Reservoir supplies 99.74 tmc. of water and the balance 25.26 tmc. is met through ground water and local rains.

The Kuruvai Crops, in an area of about 4,91,200 acres, in Namakkal, Karur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Mayiladuthurai and Nagapattinam Districts require about 93.860 tmc. of water and 30,800 acres of land in Cuddalore and Ariyalur require 5.88 tmc. of water from the reservoir.

At present, about 3,000 cusecs of water was released from the reservoir on June 12th morning and will be gradually increased to 10,000 cusecs in the evening. This quantity will be continued till June end. During the month of July, the release of water will be gradually increased from 10,000 cusecs to 16,000 cusecs and during August it will be further increased to 18,000 cusecs, depending on the requirement.

Irrigation of Samba Thaladi Crops

The irrigation of the Samba Thaladi crops, in about 12,10, 000 acres of land in the Delta Districts, requires about 205.60 tmc. of water from September 15 to January 28. This water requirement is met by the reservoir (108.50 tmc.) as well by the rain and groundwater (97.10 tmc.).

In the areas downstream the Reservoir, daily 1,707.63 million litres of water is taken annually from the river for 155 drinking water schemes in 18 Districts. In addition, water is taken for industrial use of 40 units. While releasing water for irrigation, drinking water and industrial use, totally 250 mw. of power has been generated,

50 mw. of power through the power house in the reservoir and 200 megawatt through the tunnel power plant. From the down areas of the dam 210 megawatt power is produced through 7 by 3 hydro-electric power projects.

For irrigation of Kuruvai, Samba and Thaladi crops, in the month of September, 15,000 cusecs of water is to be released during the first 15 days, which will be gradually increased to 20,000 cusecs in the next 15 days. In the month of October, 22,000 cusecs of water will be released in the first 15 days and in the next 15 days, about 15,000 cusecs will be released depending on the water requirement. In the month of November, 10,000 cusecs will be released depending on requirement, in the month of December 10,000 cusecs and for January 12,000 cusecs of water will be released. The water release will be controlled by increasing and decreasing the water release depending on the requirement.

In the current irrigation year, the farmers are requested to utilize the water judiciously, co-operate with the Irrigation Department officials during the turn system of water supply and try to get the maximum yield in the current season.

Press meet of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Thiru. M.K.Stalin after releasing water from the Mettur Reservoir for Kuruvai cultivation in the Cauvery Delta Districts:

My warm welcome to all my media friends.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, after our takeover, has been taking various steps to increase agricultural productivity and to improve the livelihood of farmers in the State. In the last two years, we have submitted a separate budget for agriculture and successfully implemented farmer-related welfare schemes, especially the Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agricultural Development Programme. Through this, over 23.54 lakh farmers have benefited. Within a short period we have provided free power connections to 1.50 lakh farmers for agricultural purposes, which is a record. Like this, we have implemented many welfare schemes for the farmers. Similarly, for the third year in succession, we are releasing water from the Mettur Dam on June 12 for Kuruvai cultivation in the Delta Districts.

It is not enough to open the Dam on the scheduled date, it is necessary that the water reaches the tail-end areas in time. We have also planned for this. During the year 2021, we undertook de-silting operation of the canals, at a cost of Rs.62.91 crore. Again for the purpose of increasing the productivity with judicious use of the water, we implemented a Kuruvai package of Rs.61.09 crore. This resulted in Cauvery water reaching the tail-end areas in time, thereby covering about 4.9 lakh acres of paddy under the Kuruvai Crops in 2021.

Similarly, during last year 2022, the State Government ordered the opening of the Reservoir 19 days in advance, that is on May 24 itself, in view of the very good storage position of the Dam.

In view of the prior opening of the Dam by 19 days, we issued a Government Order to the Irrigation Department to complete the de-silting operations in advance. For the de-silting operations, we allotted Rs.80 crore well in advance. This was appreciated by all farmers.

Last year also, we implemented a Kuruvai package scheme for Rs.61.12 crore with a view to improve the paddy production. We also supplied short-term paddy seeds, chemical fertilizers, organic manure, bank loans and other implements in time.

Due to this, last year the area under Kuruvai Cultivation for the first time in 48 years crossed 5.36 lakh acres and a record paddy production of 12.76 lakh tonnes was achieved.

In the current year, the ground water level in the Delta Districts has substantially improved due to rains in the summer months. Moreover, due to judicious use of water by the farmers, the water level as on date stands at 103.35 ft. These are the reasons that made the Government take the decision of opening the reservoir on the scheduled date of June 12.

Like in the last 2 years, this year also, the Irrigation Department undertook de-silting operations of the canals. For this the Government has sanctioned Rs.90 crore. Monitoring officers have been appointed by the Government to oversee the de-silting operations and due to this, de-silting of canals is on the verge of completion.

To review the progress of de-silting operations in person, a few days back, I reviewed the de-silting operations at Thanjavur in person along with the Hon'ble Water Resources Minister, Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Hon'ble Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, some other Ministers, MPs and MLAs. We also had personal discussions with the farmers regarding preliminary measures to be taken by the Government for the Kuruvai cultivation and collected details.

Earlier, I directed the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation and Hon'ble Minister for School Education to have discussions with the farmers in the Cauvery Delta areas for taking steps for the successful Kuruvai operations for the third year in succession.

The Government has also kept sufficient stocks of short-term paddy seeds, chemical fertilizers and organic manure at the Government Agriculture Extension Centres and private shops for supply to farmers in time. Due to this, farmers utilizing ground water have completed Kuruvai Crop planting operations on 1.6 lakh acres. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department has also initiated Kuruvai crop planting operations immediately upon the release of water from the Dam by raising community nurseries. At this juncture, today I have declared open the release of water from the Mettur Dam.

I am really happy to say that after the takeover of the present Government, for the third year in succession, the Mettur Dam has been opened for the Kuruvai Crop on the scheduled date of June 12. So I appeal to farmers to utilize the water judiciously and make the optimum use of inputs and improve the Kuruvai paddy production in the current year also.

I am also announcing a Rs.75.95crore Kuruvai Package Scheme for the farmers today. Under the Package Scheme-2023, farmers will be supplied 45 kg of urea, 50 kg DAP and 25 kg potash per acre to 2.5 lakh acres with full subsidy and paddy seeds sufficient for 1.24 lakh acres with 50 per cent subsidy. For alternative crops, a package is ready for over 15,818 acres, green manure seeds in 6,250 acres and 747 power tillers and 15 power weeders are kept ready under the package scheme. The Kuruvai Package Scheme is to be implemented at a cost of Rs.75.95 crore.

I humbly request the Cauvery farmers to make use of the river water judiciously, apply only the required chemical fertilizers and undertake Kuruvai Cultivation.

With the Government announcement of the Kuruvai Package, I expect that the Kuruvai coverage will cross 5 lakh acres in the current season.

I assure the farmers, through you, that the present Government will always support farmers and stand with them.

"The Government implemented a Kuruvai Package of Rs.61.09 crore in the year 2021, with a view to increase the crop coverage. Due to this, water reached the tail-end areas in time, making it possible to achieve a crop coverage of 4.9 lakh acres."

Social Media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Hon'ble Chief Minister commends prize-winning young writers

Congratulations to the awardees of Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar.

I extend my hearty congratulations as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, to the writer Udhayasankar who has won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar award for his book 'Aadhanin Bommai' in which, by writing about Keeladi, he has helped the younger generation know about our roots. I also congratulate writer Ram Thangam who has won the Yuva Sahitya Puraskar award for his short story collection 'Thirukarthiyal' which poignantly captures in the native Naanjil dialect, the hunger and poverty faced by the young.

-Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin*** *- 23.06.2023.*

Kudos to Health & Family Welfare Department for Medical Camps

Marking the centenary of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar who formulated the 'Varumun Kappom Thittam' as a another pioneering initiative by the Health and Family Welfare Department, 103 Multi-Speciality Special Medical Camps are being conducted all over Tamil Nadu.

Apart from providing the usual medical consultations, these camps will have specialist doctors and diagnostic tests that help in the quick identification of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

I extend my best wishes for the success of these camps conducted together by the Government and Private hospitals for the benefit of poor people. I commend the work of the Hon'ble Ministers, doctors, nurses and all others who are organising these special, multi-speciality camps.

-Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin*** *regarding the 103 Multi-Speciality Special Medical Camps that are being conducted all over Tamil Nadu - 24.06.2023.*

Thiru. V.P. Singh fearlessly pursued social justice

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Thiru. V.P. Singh, I pay homage to a revolutionary leader who was steadfast in his commitment to the uplift of the backward classes. He fearlessly championed the cause of social justice, emboldening everyone to assert that 'Reservation is our right'. Thiru. V.P. Singh and our Thalaivar Kalaignar worked together towards the common goal of empowering the underprivileged. May his thoughts continue to guide us towards a brighter and more equitable future.

-Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin*** *on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Thiru. V.P. Singh - 25.06.2023.*

Women's Football Team commended for its dedication and skill

Congratulations to the Tamil Nadu Women's Football Team which has won the trophy in the 27th Senior Women's National Football Championship. This tremendous success you have achieved in moving to the goal without losing even once in the series, is commendable. The way you played as a united team and the qualities of dedication and skill that you showed, have made us proud. May you continue to fly higher and bring more glory to our State.

Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin*** *- 28.06.2023*

Thanks for taking the important step towards ensuring the livelihood of matchbox factory workers

Thanks to Hon'ble Union Minister Thiru. Piyush Goyal for taking steps to ban the import of cigarette lighters as requested by me in the letter written in the previous year. This is an important step towards protecting the livelihood of more than one lakh persons involved in matchbox manufacturing.

-Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin*** *- 29.06.2023.*

Tamil Nadu tops in export of electronic goods in India

The emergence of Tamil Nadu as the top exporter of electronic goods is a small example of the efficiency of the Dravidian Model Government. We are striving to make Tamil Nadu the first port of call for Investors and an investment hub of South Asia. We will look for more opportunities in this sphere and continue to excel.

- Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ***Thiru. M.K. Stalin*** *- 04.07.2023*

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates Kalaignar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital at Guindy

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** along with the doctors and nurses, declared open the Kalaignar Centenary Super Speciality Hospital, Constructed at an area of 6 lakh sq.ft., at the Guindy King Research Institute complex, on 15.06.2023.

The 1,000-bed hospital, built at a cost of Rs.240.54 crore, will have all modern facilities. On the same occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister unveiled the bust-size statue of Dr. Muthamizharignar Kalaignar at the Hospital complex.

On the occasion of the centenary birthday of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar on June 3, 2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced that a 500-bed Multi-Super Speciality Hospital will be constructed on 4.89 acres of land in the King Research Institute complex in Guindy, at a cost of Rs.250 crore.

In continuation of his announcement, on behalf of the Health and Family Public Welfare Department, about an area of 4.89 acres of land was located at the King Research Institute complex in Guindy and as a first instalment, Rs.230 crore and subsequently another Rs.10.54 crore was allotted for the construction of the hospital. The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Multi-Super Speciality Hospital on 21.03.2023.

This 1,000-bed hospital has speciality wings for treatment in specialities like Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, Neurology and NeuroSurgery, Oncology and Surgical Oncology, Gastroenterology and Gastroenterological surgery, Nephrology and Kidney surgery, Vascular Surgery and Cerebrovascular Radiation. In addition, it has a Department of Emergency Medicine, Anesthesiology, Intensive Care, Central laboratory, Blood Bank and Radiology (CT, MRI, USG, Digital X-Ray) Departments, There are specialized Departments like Physiotherapy, Regenerative Medicine, Intensive cardiology Department and Intensive Anesthesiology Department and 15 modern operation theatres.

This speciality hospital has specialized equipment, purchased at a cost of Rs.146.52 crore, for accurate diagnosis and treatment of various ailments. About 1,000 employees are functioning in the hospital, including doctors, nurses and other medical staff.

The hospital also has rooms with special facilities, central disinfection station, modern laundry, Central Pharmacy, Central Laboratory, Medical Documentation wing, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, Canteen facilities, Information Centre, 24-hour cleaning and security, Purified drinking water, Assistance room, Waiting hall, Medical waste management, Oxygen pipeline, Quality control room, Central warehouse and nutritious food regimen.

In this hospital, Administrative Departments like the Director's office, Nursing Superintendent's Office, Administrative Office, Station Medical Office and Education and Research centre have also been established.

As the hospital is centrally located and has modern treatment facilities, the people of Tamil Nadu will greatly benefit from it.

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, after inaugurating the Kalaignar Centenary Memorial Super Speciality Hospital:

My hearty welcome to all of you.

Muthamizharignar Kalaignar once said that the life of a man begins after his death.

In that way, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, who did everything for the welfare of the Tamil people while he lived, continues to do good even after his death.

Guindy, where the Hospital is located, comes under the Saidapet Assembly Constituency, from where Muthamizharignar Kalaignar was elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly twice. Perarignar Anna, while releasing the list of the party candidates for the 1967 Assembly Elections, said, "For Saidapet-candidate Thiru. 11 lakh" (referring to the amount he had raised as the party's treasurer). As a former Legislator of this Constituency, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar has fetched this Super Speciality Hospital for the people of his Constituency.

This complex is known as Kings Institute Complex. The name is also appropriate.

King is also another name for Kalaignar. Throughout his life, Kalaignar lived like a king and was also known as king maker. In this way, there is no other name and place suitable for the King's Research Institute.

We have completed the project in 15 months. I repeat again, 15 months. This is the major achievement. You all know the story of a project, which was announced in 2015 and not a brick has been moved till 2023. You all know the story of the single brick. Given such

a State, we have completed this project within 15 months, after laying the foundation stone. You must know the difference between people who plan schemes for the welfare of the people and who announce the schemes just to 'deceive' people. The D.M.K. Government took over on May 7, 2021. On the birth anniversary of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar on June 3 that year, the Government made 6 important announcements. Of the announcements, the most important is the opening of a 500-bed multi-speciality hospital, at an estimate of Rs.250 crore. About 4.89 acres of land was identified at the King's Research Institute in Guindy and the number of beds was increased from 500 to 1,000 and the foundation stone was laid on March 21, 2022 and the project has been declared open today. That means within 15 months, the project has been completed.

The 6-storied hospital building has three divisions.

1) Outpatient ward and administrative office,

2) Operation Theatre wing and Intensive Care wing,

3) Inpatient and X-Ray wing

Basement floor for medicines storage, Ground floor for intensive care wards, Second floor – general wards and operation theatres, Third floor – Cancer treatment wing, Fourth Floor – Special wards, Fifth Floor – Anaesthesia wing and Sixth Floor – Continuous treatment wards.

There are 10 operation theatres, high-tech laboratories, special facilities for differently-abled persons, 10 lifts, laundries, canteens, and fire-fighting equipment. All these facilities of international standards have been provided in the hospital.

On this occasion, I congratulate Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department Thiru. E.V.Velu, and the Minister for Health and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma.Subramanian, who have got this hospital built in a big way, a very big way, a very, very big way. Thiru. E.V.Velu has planned and got this hospital built as a fortress of people's health.

Our velu was praised by Kalaignar as one who works voluntarily. I had said that Ma.Su is our 'Marathan Minister considering in work efficiency. Both of them have added glory to Kalaignar' legacy.

I whole heartedly thank the Secretaries, officers of the PWD and Health & Family Welfare Department and the construction firm and its employees.

Twenty to thirty years back, Thalaivar Kalaignar was known as Muthamizharignar Kalaignar only. He was not a medical doctor, but a social doctor. He is a doctor curing the social evils of society. Till his death, he utilized his intellect, thinking capacity, eloquence, speed of action, and his courage till the age of 95 for the welfare of the Tamil people. Even if I am in the Fort (Secretariat), I always think about the

poor people in slums, said Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. Born in the Most Backward Class Community, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar always served the people who were in the margins of society. We are opening a library in his name in Madurai next month.

Today, we have opened a hospital. We can name any project in his name. His name is suitable for all projects.

When he came to power for the first time, every year on his birthday on June 3, he would announce welfare schemes for the people who are in the margins of society and would transform the day into one for such people.

In the year 1971, he started the Beggars Rehabilitation Scheme, In 1972, Kannoli Scheme, In 1973 banning hand-drawn rickshaw scheme and distribution of free cycle rickshaw scheme.

I would like to recollect another of his schemes, to illustrate the manner in which Muthamizharignar Kalaignar was an Archangel of the marginalised people.

Muthamizharignar Kalaignar wrote his autobiography in the name of 'Nenjukku Needhi' and planned to release the first volume on January 12, 1975 by the then President Fakruddin Ali Ahmed . The then Governor of the State Thiru.K.K.Shah was to receive the first copy of the book. But some people prevented the President from participating in the function even as they stopped the President now. But Dr.Kalaignar did not worry about it. He organized the function under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu Association for the Blind Thiru. Asir Nallathambi. The book was released by Kavignar Muhammad Ali, a leprosy patient who was the Secretary of the Rehabilitated Leprosy Patients Association. It was released by Selvi Shantha Kumari, who had a walking disability and came in a wheelchair to receive the book. Such was the compassion and care that Thalaivar Kalaignar showed for the poor and Differently-abled.

Referring to the absence of the President at the book release function, Dr Kalaignar said that happiness never lasted for 24 hours in his life., Muthamizharignar Kalaignar grew only by crossing such obstacles. We too are growing in this manner.

Even after 100 years, the name of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar will be remembered in Tamil Nadu, Those, who created obstacles have faded away after their death. But Muthamizharignar Kalaignar will be remembered for generations to come. This hospital is going to safeguard the health of the people for years to come. Left to ourselves, we will construct such hospitals every year. We have such infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu stands first in the medical infrastructure. Chennai is known as the 'medical city.' The 'Kalaignar Kappeettu Thittam' is a pioneering scheme in the country, providing medical facilities for lakhs and lakhs of poor people.

Not only that, in the year 1989 itself, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar inaugurated the Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy women's maternity scheme for the benefit of poor women. In the year 2015, the then Chief Minister Ammaiyar Jayalalithaa launched the Amma Baby Care Kit Scheme and Amma Maternity Nutrition Kit Scheme, which the present Government is continuing. This is the way Kalaignar taught us. Whatever the good schemes of the Government, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar continued them by developing the schemes by refining them still further. He did not look at the schemes politically, but from the people's point of view.

During his period, Kalaignar declared open medical colleges in Thoothukudi, Viluppuram, Dharmapuri and Tiruvarur. It was he who sowed the concept of a medical college for each District.

As Thiru. Ma. Su. said, pioneering schemes of the Government, like 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' 'Innuyir Kappom Nammai Kaakkum 48' have turned the focus of the medical world on Tamil Nadu. With 5,050 medical seats in 36 Government Medical Colleges in the State, Tamil Nadu stands first.

In the year 1999, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar started the 'Varumun Kappom Scheme', which is continuing till date. These medical camps are benefiting the poor people. In the current financial year alone, 14.70 lakh, people benefited. 108 Ambulance service was introduced by the then Chief Minister Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, which has been extended for new-born children also. Now 2-Wheeler Emergency Service and Mobile Medical Kit are also available in the State. In the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, 1,760 hospitals are attached. As a speciality scheme, 1,320 orphaned children have been enrolled under the scheme. 1,414 accredited journalists and Weekly magazine reporters have been included in the scheme without salary ceiling.

Under the ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme’ 1.46 crore people have been benefited. In the national welfare schemes, especially in women and children schemes, Tamil Nadu stands first.

The present Government is functioning as the People’s Welfare Government and as a protector of the people, on the path laid down by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. Muthamizharignar Kalaignar converted the challenges into achievements and in the same way, we will also convert the challenges into achievements.

Whenever we do good things to people, some people create obstacles and divert our focus. But we would not get diverted. People’s welfare is our only motive and we continue to tread that path.

A woman who is the mother of four children, gives more attention to the weak child. Muthamizharignar Kalaignar always used to refer to this and say that the Government too should similarly show greater care for the poor in society. It is apt to name the present hospital or the Centenary library, to be opened in Madurai, next month, after Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, who had a motherly affection towards the poor. I feel great pride in declaring open the present hospital, not only as the Chief Minister of

the State but as the son of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar.

On this happy occasion, I would like to make an announcement, especially for the Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources. He has placed the demand several times. In Vellore town, there are many big hospitals, including the CMC Hospital. To get treatment in these hospitals, thousands of people come here, not only from other parts of the State but from all over the country. Many poor people who come for treatment find it difficult to get accommodation at reasonable rates. This was brought to the notice of the Government.

Our Government which upholds the message "Yaadhum Oorey Yaavarum Kelir", has therefore decided to construct a hostel with 250 beds on an area of 2-hectare of land in Perumugai Village in Sathuvachari inner division with the name, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar Birth Centenary Hostel. Muthamizharignar Kalaignar continues to direct us and we get strength and motivation just by uttering his name.

Let us all go forward with that strength. Let us all hail Muthamizharignar Kalaignar, who continues to live for us even during his centenary celebrations. Nandri, Vanakkam!

Let us know

- To ensure food security and nutrition protection to all, the Government of Tamil Nadu, through the Public Distribution System and the Special Public Distribution System supplies essential articles to ration card-holders, through fair price shops.
- Some persons have been selling essential articles supplied through the fair price shops in the black market, with the aim of making greater profits.
- Due to continuous patrolling and monitoring by the employees of the Civil Supplies and the Consumer Protection Department and the Crime Wing of the Civil Supplies Department, cases are being booked against those who indulge in smuggling of essential articles and their accomplices, under the Essential Articles Act 1955, and action is being taken against them.
- Those who are continuously indulging in smuggling of essential articles are kept in preventive detention under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- From 01.05.2023 to 31.05.2023, the Civil Supplies Department officials seized 2,447 quintals of PDS rice worth Rs.18,41,994,269 LPG cylinders, 180 kg of wheat, 1,100 kg of toor dhal, 450 litres of kerosene and 150 vehicles, which were used to smuggle these articles.
- 561 persons, who were involved in the criminal activities have been arrested; 2 persons have been held under the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Public, who have information about smuggling and hoarding of essential articles, may contact the toll-free number 1800 599 5950 and give information.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for FinTech City, FinTech tower worth Rs.254 crore

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** laid the foundation stone for FinTech City - 17.06.2023

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on behalf of the Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department, laid the foundation stone for setting up a FinTech City, on an area of 56 acres by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, at an estimated cost of Rs.116 crore in Nandambakkam, Alandur Taluk, Chennai. In the first phase, a FinTech Tower, a multi-storied building of international standards, on an area of 5.6 lakh sq. feet at an initial cost of Rs.254 crore will be constructed.

Foundation stone laid for Fintech city

Taking into consideration the speedy growth of information technology, in the year 2000, the then Chief Minister Dr.Kalaignar, with a long-term perspective set up Tidel Park on Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Chennai. Through this, IT companies were established in the entire area and now it has become the symbol of IT development in Tamil Nadu.

Similarly, in this era when the world is moving towards a digital economy, it is necessary to create jobs in the financial technology sector and make Tamil Nadu a state that excels in it. This is the objective of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin.

In order to fulfill this, in the revised budget estimate for the year 2021-2022, it was announced that a FinTech city would be set up

in Nandambakkam to promote the development of the financial technology sector in Tamil Nadu as there are huge opportunities for it.

According to the announcement, a FinTech City would be set up on 56 acres of land, at a cost of Rs.116 crore at Nandambakkam, by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. This FinTech city will have all infrastructure facilities such as roads, sewage treatment plant, solid waste management and rainwater drainage, to enable domestic and international financial institutions to set up their branches. Also, residential facilities will be provided in the city itself for those working there and it will have all facilities like shopping malls, star hotels, parks, restaurants etc. The establishment of this city will attract investments to the tune of Rs.12,000 crore and provide employment opportunities to around 80,000 persons.

Foundation stone laid for FinTech Tower

As a part of the FinTech City, an apartment of international standards, by name FinTech Tower, will be constructed, at an estimated cost of Rs.254 crore, on an area of 5.6 lakh square feet. Ready-to-occupy offices, with all necessary facilities will be set up there for finance and fintech companies to start their operations. It will have two auditoriums with a capacity of 250 seats and 50 seats each, creche, gymnasium, restaurants etc. The proposed tower will attract investments to the tune of Rs.1,000 crore and facilitate job opportunities to around 7,000 persons.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the occasion:

First of all I extend my warm welcome to all of you.

Tamil Nadu is standing tall due to various initiatives taken by the Government in the past two years. It has become a model State for the rest of the country, in particular, the Industries Department which is making very rapid advances.

Earlier, Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu was the Minister for Industries Department and following him now is Thiru. T.R.B. Rajaa.

The industrial programmes of the State Government are sowing the seeds of social and economic development of the State. We have carved out several achievements in the

Industries Department. Every step taken to attract investments has the larger objective of creating jobs. Our inclusive Dravidian Model of development is setting up an example for many States.

Our hard work has attracted the attention of global companies and they are flocking to Tamil Nadu to make their investments.

These investments are being made widely across the State to enable the youth and women in every District to work close to the places where they live.

All electronic financial services should reach the poor and the needy. Online sales have increased several-fold. The use of electronic banking services, which started increasing during the COVID pandemic, has now grown manifold. I consider it the duty of the Government to make good use of this development and develop.

Mobile money transfer

In the present scenario, mobile transactions are more prevalent than ATM withdrawals. Digital transactions are now on the rise, to the extent that banks have almost become fully digital banks. But this is yet to reach its full potential; we must consider the future and plan accordingly.

Currently IT, IT services, electronics, innovation and industrial companies have also achieved remarkable growth in Tamil Nadu.

I strongly believe that the FinTech sector will see tremendous growth in Tamil Nadu as it integrates traditional banking and non-banking financial services with emerging modern technology.

Companies located here are a testimony to the fact that Tamil Nadu excels in terms of financial technology industry environment. The power of educated and capable youth is on the increase in Tamil Nadu. This is also the main reason that international companies are coming towards Tamil Nadu. We have to maintain this and take it to the next level.

We are committed to developing and advancing the skills of our youth in line with tomorrow's technological requirements. As a part of this, we have started the 'Naan Mudhalvan' programme to train the youth.

We are making a Lot of proactive efforts to attract FinTech investments.

FinTech Policy 2021

Recently, I released the special FinTech Policy 2021 to make Tamil Nadu a global hub for FinTech companies by 2025.

- Various concessions have been given to FinTech companies investing more than Rs.50 crore.
- A separate FinTech Department has been created in the Industrial Guidance Bureau.
- A Financial Technology Governing Council has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Industries Minister.

Along these lines, I am happy to lay the foundation stone for a FinTech city in Chennai and a FinTech tower to provide one-stop financial services.

In this financial city, there will be modern infrastructure facilities to suit the requirements of Indian and international financial institutions. We have allocated 56 acres of land in Nandambakkam, in the heart of Chennai City. This will attract investments of Rs.12,000 crore in the FinTech sector and create employment for 80,000 persons.

Also, we will be setting up a FinTech Tower here with an area of 5.6 lakh square feet. Through this, investments of over Rs.1,000 crore will be realized, facilitating employment for around 7,000 persons. In short, this FinTech City will act as a hub for the next-generation technologies, such as financial services and related activities.

> "We have carved out several achievements in the Industries Department. Every step taken to attract investments has the larger objective of creating jobs. Our inclusive Dravidian Model of development is setting up an example for many states."

This is just the beginning. I welcome your involvement in this journey. I seek your support at this time to take Tamil Nadu to new heights through your financial solutions.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the Global Investors Meet to be held in January in Chennai and invest more.

My compliments to the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. T.R.B. Rajaa, Thiru. S. Krishnan I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Industries Department and other officials who have made this event so successful.

I would like to take this opportunity to conclude my speech by expressing my gratitude to the distinguished foreign embassies, businessmen, representatives of industry and trade organizations and all of you who have participated in this event.

Hon’ble Chief Minister launches website to enable farmers gauge fertility of soil

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, from the Secretariat on 28.06.2023, launched a new website called ‘Tamil Mannvalam’ (http://tnagriculture.in/mannvalam/) on behalf of the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, which has been created to encourage farmers to know the soil fertility of their land and apply fertilizers accordingly.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** launched the new website ‘Tamil Mannvalam’- 28.06.2023

Soil fertility is essential to increase agricultural production

Soil fertility plays an important role in increasing crop yield. Soil fertility refers to the nature of the soil, the level of organic matter, acidity, micro-nutrients such as iron, manganese and macro-nutrients such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium in the soil. It is very important for every farmer to know about soil fertility and to apply fertilizers accordingly, as it is the major factor in determining yield.

‘Tamil Mannvalam’ website

In order to improve soil fertility of arable lands, it was announced by the Hon’ble Minister

for Agriculture – Farmers Welfare in the Agriculture budget 2022-2023, that a website called ‘Tamil Mannvalam’ will be created.

Accordingly, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu launched the ‘Tamil Mannvalam’ website for the use of farmers, developed by the Department of Agriculture - Farmers Welfare.

Benefits of Tamil Mannvalam Website

Farmers can access ‘Tamil Mannvalam’ website through computer or mobile at http://tnagriculture.in/mannvalam/. If the farmers register their District, locality, village, field number, sub-division number of their land on this website, immediately, all the information about soil fertility will be downloaded and available in electronic form as soil fertility card on their mobile phone. This website is designed in Tamil and English. Also, the types of soil are given zone-wise, district-wise and village-wise.

Farmers can know the nature of soil, classification of ground water, salinity level, pH, organic carbon, calcareousness and other chemical properties, details such as Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium, the details of micro nutrients like sulphur, iron, manganese, zinc, copper and boron, and the details of what crops, whether agriculture, horticulture or agro-forestry, can be cultivated and how much fertilizer should be applied to the selected crop.

The website has been introduced for the first time in India and is a forerunner in the country. With the help of this website, farmers can know the soil fertility of their land and apply fertilizers accordingly to reduce cultivation cost, conserve soil fertility and increase crop yield. ■

Chennai’s Climate Action Plan

Let us know

- Chennai, through its Climate Action Plan, has set a target to achieve 93% electricity from renewable sources by 2050.
- Targeting 100% of commercial buildings in Chennai to use high-efficiency renewable energy by 2050.
- In Chennai, by 2050, to promote sustainable transport, work towards achieving 80% of city traffic by public transport, promoting walking, cycling, 100% electrification of City Transport Corporation buses and encouraging electrification of private vehicles.
- An efficient, effective and resilient waste management system will be developed to manage 100% solid waste of Chennai city.
- As part of Chennai’s plan to become a ‘water-efficient’ city, the objective is to expand urban nature to 35% of the city by 2050.
- The City of Chennai will work towards providing a ‘non-destructive climate for all’ by rehabilitating vulnerable populations living within flood-prone zones, building their heat resilience, and re-structuring huts in slums to expand provision of health infrastructure to them.

Hon’ble Chief Minister interacts with SIRPI students trained in manifold aspects

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin,** at the valedictory function of the SIRPI Scheme at the Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai - 26.06.2023

At the valedictory function of the Students in Responsible Police Initiatives (SIRPI) Scheme at the Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, on 26.06.2023, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, interacted with the 5,000 students who completed their training programme under the Scheme and distributed certificates to them. On the occasion, the Hon’ble Chief Minister also released the SIRPI song for its students.

> **‘SIRPI’ scheme is to benefit the students by developing good conduct and social responsibility in them**

The Hon’ble Chief Minister had inaugurated the SIRPI programme, on behalf of the Greater Chennai Police for students, at the Kalaivanar Arangam on 14.09.2022, with a view to improve the behaviour of students, to develop good habits in them and instill patriotism into them. The purpose of the SIRPI is to improve the conduct of students, create good relations between them and the police and make them law-abiding citizens.

To make for an excellent and noble younger generation, the SIRPI Scheme was started with 5,000 Government school students, (2,558 girls and 2,442 boys). Twelve police sub-inspectors and 2 nodal teachers were selected for each school. The students were imparted good ideas about education, good conduct, general knowledge and were taken on an educational tour.

Through SIRPI, the students were given school books and two sets of school uniforms. They were given 40 weeks training and taken to 8 educational tours before the completion of the scheme.

During the training period, they were given training by qualified trainers on Kavathu (military drill), traffic rules, awareness of offences in the cyberworld, ways of protecting kids, good conduct, plastics abolition, environmental pollution, noise and light pollution, patriotism, prevention of drug addiction, personal hygiene, protection of nature, yoga, human well being, self defence, patriotism, knowledge of qualifications needed for getting Government jobs, Cavalry, sniffer dogs wing, green agriculture, good and bad touches and telephone numbers for assistance.

For performing Trikona Asana (yoga pose) all together at the same place and time, SIRPI students were awarded the World Young Achievers Record, Tamil Nadu Young Achievers Record and World Record Union.

To protect nature, 5,000 students prepared 5 lakh seed balls and handed over them to the Forest Department officials and created a record by planting 5,000 tree saplings. For these ‘save nature’ activities, they received Indian Records

Academy Award and the Asian Book of Records Award.

To bring recognition to the SIRPI movement, its volunteers participated in the Republic Day celebrations on 26.01.2023. Their majestic march drew the attention of spectators. The SIRPI girl participants team won the Award for Best Leadership.

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at the SIRPI valedictory function:

My hearty welcome to all of you.

How are you?

How was your experience in participating in the SIRPI Programme? Is it beneficial to you? By seeing your eagerness and enthusiasm and the happiness on your faces, I could guess that you are all in a happy frame of mind. After seeing you, I also got your energy. Memories of my school days come to my mind after seeing you.

This function is being held at the stadium named after our former Prime Minister Nehru, the leader liked by children, who dreamt that India is for all.

The great responsibility to maintain an India for all, an egalatarian India, lies in your hands who can be the future of this country.

A great renaissance is taking place in Tamil Nadu after the takeover of the Dravidian Model Government. We are growing as the number one State in all fields in the country, especially in education. One of the major achievements of this Government, I can proudly say, is the breakfast scheme for school children. For children who are hungry, the first offering is food for their stomach and then only for their mind. If you remove hunger, then automatically they are ready for the food for their mind. Taking this into consideration, we launched the breakfast scheme.

Similarly, on behalf of the Education Department, we introduced 'Illam Thedi Kalvi', 'Naan Mudhalvan' School Management Councils, App to find school drop out children, Special fund for special children, 'Ennum Ezhuthum' Movement for children from 1st to 3rd Standards, Quiz programme for students from 9th to 12th standards, Suggestion box for students, Special training for mathematics teachers, high-tech laboratories, App for a close look at classrooms, e-teacher, a high-tech digital App schemes for children and school students.

In line with such schemes, the Greater Chennai Police have planned the SIRPI Scheme, which was inaugurated by me. I am happy to inform you that the scheme, conceived by the Police Commissioner, Shankar Jiwal, has the objective that just as we academically teach students to make them excel in many subjects, we should also instill good conduct and responsibility into them.

I am happy to inform you that the scheme was announced by me in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 13.09.2021. This scheme is planned for 50 students each in 100 Government schools. This scheme is to benefit the students in developing good conduct and social responsibility in them.

I inaugurated the scheme at the Kalaivanar Arangam on 14.09.2022. At the inaugural function, it was announced that the scheme would create the best younger generation in the State.

Now 2,558 girl students and 2,442 boys have been trained under the scheme and I am extremely happy to see the trained students. I am confident that you will be successful in accomplishing the goal of the scheme.

This scheme has been successfully implemented and the valedictory function is being held today. I hope you all received the school books and the uniforms. Did they take you on your educational tour ? During the one-year period, Kavathu, traffic rules, cyber crimes, child protection, good conduct, plastic abolition, environment protection, light and sound pollution, patriotism, drug addiction prevention methods, personal hygiene, protection of nature, yoga, human health, personal protection, job-oriented studies, cavalry, sniffer dogs wing, Organic Farming, teaching good and bad touches and helpline numbers for assistance are taught by experts from their respective fields, Police and SIRPI Nodal teachers.

During the training period you have carved out many achievements. Your trainers proudly informed me about your achievements. This type of training is normally given to those entering the IAS and IPS. But here, you are getting such training when you are very young, through the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Significantly, awareness has been created to control air pollution. 5,000 SIRPI students have travelled from Chennai Egmore to

Vandalur by special trains. To protect nature, you handed over 5 lakh seed packets to the Forest Department. You have also planted 5,000 saplings.

I was amazed by your majestic march in the 74th Republic Day function. All your achievements surprised not only me but also the people in general.

You got the opportunity of such training at this young age. You must consider this a milestone in your life. These activities will bring order into your lives and into your families and environment. The Police Department is focusing special attention curbing juvenile crimes.

Carelessness of family members towards children is responsible for such crimes. Lack of income for the family, children growing without proper support and unemployment are responsible. Such schemes will help identify the causes and root them out.

The students should be made aware of the steps for rooting out drug addiction, the measures to curb addiction to drink, and taught about the law. They must be taught to work with Government and non-Governmental agencies, personality building, giving respect to the sentiments of parents, relating to the public, following traffic rules from a young age, observance of national celebrations, respecting national symbols and taking pride in the State's resources and achievements. Because, today's youth is the future of the country.

If you look towards grooming our children, you can reform their future. Such children will surely create an ideal society. Tamil Nadu is in the second place in providing quality education in the whole of India. The School Education Department is making all out efforts to take the State to the number one position.

As far as I am concerned, it is the duty of the Government to make quality citizens. The 'Naan Mudhalvan Scheme' of the Government grooms boys and girls into multi-faceted personalities. The result of the scheme will reflect in the future generations. Our aim is to make the State 100 per cent literate. We should provide education for all. We should make attempts to bring children with learning disabilities. Special attention should be given to children who are backward in talent. Girl children should be made to gain self-confidence. My appeal to you

is that you must not stop at the school level. Pursue your college studies.

You should concentrate on your studies. Play well and keep yourself physically fit. Look around and study the society in which you are living. Through your studies, develop your self-respect, rationalism and scientific temper. Your education must make you think. Bring forward more and more innovations. Education is the only treasure that cannot be robbed from you.

Big companies, coming to know of your education and qualifications, must seek you out. You must start business ventures and give jobs to others.

The Dravidian Model Government is there to allay other worries you may have and fulfil your other needs. Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin is there. You need not worry about anything else.Your attention should not be diverted.

Today is a day against drug abuse and Illicit trafficking. You must tell people around you that drugs are a danger to your health, your family and the nation and its future. Let us make our society a drug-free society. You must assert this to everyone in society. Will you do this?

My dear students, my best wishes to you to be good, capable, self-confident and firm in justice and honesty.

All the very best!

Nandri!

Vanakkam!

News in Picture

The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the newly appointed Chief Secretary

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin,** congratulated Thiru. Shiv Das Meena, I.A.S., who has been appointed as the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, at the Secretariat on 30.06.2023.

Government of Tamil Nadu 'giving special attention to MSME sector'

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** presided over the MSME Day function and delivered his speech - 27.06.2023

At the International Day of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, held at the Chennai Trade Centre in Nandambakkam on 27.06.2023, under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, projects were launched at an investment of Rs. 1,723.05 crore, facilitating employment to 30,000 persons.

To recognize the role of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the economic development

of the country and in providing employment, every year June 27 is observed as MSME Day. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed that MSME Day should be observed as a Government function. As per his directive, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Day was observed as a Government function in a grand manner at the Chennai Trade Centre at Nandambakkam.

Issuance of subsidy for starting industries under Dr.Ambedkar entrepreneurship scheme

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed subsidies to the tune of Rs.18.94 crore to 100 beneficiaries for an investment of Rs.57.55 crore, under the Tamil Nadu Government's Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme. The State Government, with a view to usher in social justice has launched the scheme to encourage Adi Dravidars and Tribal entrepreneurs to start new Industries.

Under the scheme, 35 per cent capital subsidy was given for purchase of land for setting up the industry, for machinery and for working capital. Apart from this, 6 per cent interest subsidy is also given. The scheme of loan facility with subsidies, for the Adi Dravidars and Tribes has not been available in any other State except Tamil Nadu. Within 3 months of the launching of the scheme, 127 Adi Dravidars and Tribals have benefited to the tune of Rs.45 crore, with a subsidy of Rs.24.26 crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the consent letters to the beneficiaries.

Three new industrial estates opened

Taking into consideration, the requirements of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open 3 new industrial estates, one each in Chengalpattu District – Kodur, Tiruchirappalli District – Manapparai and Madurai District – Sakkimangalam, on 262.03 acres of land at an estimate of Rs.153.22 crore.These new industrial estates have the potential of employing about 21,500 people.

Inauguration of cashew processing Micro-Industry Group in Cuddlore District

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated a cashew processing cluster at Padampuliyur, Cuddalore District, which was established under the MSME Cluster Development Scheme as the first Micro-Industry Group at a cost of Rs.2.16 crore along with a subsidy of Rs.1.81 crore by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, there are micro clusters which generate rural employment and promote gender and social inclusion. For these clusters, the State Government announced the Cluster Development Programme in the last year's budget, to be implemented from 2022-2023. So far, acceptance has been given to 28 cluster groups, or setting up their units for investments of Rs.143.47 crore with the Government subsidy of Rs.117.33 crore. It is to be noted that these clusters are in various stages of implementation.

Virtual exhibition for marketing MSME products

In the function to facilitate marketing of MSME products, a virtual exhibition was organized, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu distributed cash prizes to students for their innovations under the schools innovation development programme

Taking into consideration the future of students, the State Government launched the School Innovations Programme for students who are of innovative bent of mind. Under the scheme, 10 successful students were given Rs.10 lakh at one lakh each and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu handed over the cheques to the student innovators.

MoU signed in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

To take forward the equal growth in all Districts, inclusive of all industrial sectors, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between entrepreneurs and the Bureau for 'Facilitating of MSMEs of Tamil Nadu' (FaMe TN) in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, for 100 new investment proposals for Rs.1,510 crore, facilitating employment opportunities to 7,400 people, and for providing Government of Tamil Nadu concessions to MSMEs which are getting loans from SIDBI. To provide loan facilities for MSME industries getting financial assistance from the SIDBI and for implementing the Government schemes, another MoU was signed between SIDBI and the FaMe TN in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Awards for MSME units

As a part of the valedictory celebrations, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the Best Entrepreneur Award, in recognition of the role of MSMEs, to Heat Exchangers, Precision Equipments (Chennai) Pvt. Ltd., the Best Women Entrepreneurship Award to Unitech Plasto Components Pvt. Ltd., Kancheepuram, the best Agri-based Industry Award to Pavithran Aseptic Fruit Products, Krishnagiri, the Best Quality Export Award to Aerospace Engineers Pvt. Ltd., Salem and the

Special Industry Award to DM Engineering Industry, Coimbatore.

Also, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu gave the Indian Bank, the best banker award for providing financial assistance to micro, small and medium enterprises, the second best banker award for Indian Overseas Bank and the third best banker award to Bank of Baroda Bank.

At the function held under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, an investment of Rs.1,723.05 crore facilitating employment to 30,000 persons, was committed.

speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the occasion:

My hearty welcome to all of you.

At a time when the birth centenary of Dr.Kalaignar is being celebrated, MSME Day is also being observed today.

Dr.Kalaignar considered social justice and equitable industrial growth as his two eyes. Dr. Kalaignar felt that it is not fair to have the same policy for big industries and small industries. So he framed a separate policy for the growth of micro, small and medium industries for the first time in the country. He started SIDCO in the year 1970, with all basic infrastructure facilities. As of today, in Tamil Nadu we have 127 industrial estates in 37 districts. It was Dr.Kalaignar who sowed the seeds of equitable growth.

The present Government, which is following the path of social justice and equitable growth in the State, has announced the great scheme known as the 'Annal Ambedkar Champions Scheme' to encourage Adi Dravidars and Tribals to start industries. Under the scheme, the Government will provide 35 per cent capital subsidy along with 6 per cent interest subvention for procuring land and equipment. No other State in the country has such a scheme with such a high subsidy. Within 3 months after the announcement of the scheme, 127 Adi Dravidars and Tribal community have been given acceptance orders for a loan facility of Rs.45 crore with a subsidy of Rs.24.26 crore. The acceptance orders are being given to 100 beneficiaries in this function.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking special interest in MSME units, as these units are mainly responsible for the economic growth of the State. For this, the Government of Tamil Nadu has appointed a special committee, under the chairmanship of retired I.A.S. Officer, Thiru. N.Sundaradevan. On his recommendation, the Government has classified short-term measures, medium term measures and long-term measures and taken steps. Tamil Nadu trade receivables are based on a discounting system. Last September in Madurai, I announced the 'Thol Koduppom Thozhilgalukku' Scheme.

We launched Single Window Portal - 2.0 for securing 159 industrial licenses from 27 Government Departments. So far, 20,353 applications have been received. Of these, 17,618 have received industrial licenses and 1,903 applications are under process.

In Tamil Nadu, there are many Micro Cluster Groups. It is high time that these groups are improved to help generate rural employment and promote gender and social inclusion. To attain international standards, meet their own demands and to enter the growing industrial sector, we announced that big clusters will be formed. In the first phase, we are taking steps for forming 4 big clusters.

- Extensive project report is being prepared for a Pharmaceutical Products Cluster in Tindivanam,
- Precision Engineering Cluster in Thirumudivakkam,
- Space and Defence Cluster, Smart Mobility and E-vehicle Group Cluster.

So far, 6 industrial estates have been opened and steps are being taken to open 6 more industrial estates in 6 Districts.

Providing hostels at concessional rents for workers from other districts and states in industrialized cities like Chennai and Coimbatore is a great challenge for the Government. To solve the issue, the State Government itself decided to build hostels and in the first phase, construction work has started in Chennai and Coimbatore.

After the advent of the present Government, new life has been given to the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission, by sanctioning Rs.30 crore. Various plans are being implemented throughout the State to renovate them.

Totally, 6,257 startup units from Tamil Nadu have registered in the Startup India Portal. This is the number registered in the portal in the last 2 years up to May 2021. This is double the number of units registered between 2016 and April 2021. I am proud to say that this is a classic example of the speed with which the D.M.K. Government is functioning.

Regional startup centres have been opened in Madurai, Erode and Tirunelveli. In the present financial year, startup centres are to be opened in the second and third tier cities like Hosur, Cuddalore and Thanjavur.

In the last financial year, a special fund of Rs.30 crore has been sanctioned for equity investment for the Startup units of Adi Dravidars and Tribals. Following the good response from investors, this has been increased to Rs.50 crore in the current year.

Taking into consideration the future of students and to transform the students into entrepreneurs and providers of employment to others, the State Government launched the Schools Innovation Development Scheme.

Under the scheme, the best innovations of 10 successful students were displayed here and I inspected them. An award of Rs.One lakh was handed over to each of 10 students.

For industrial growth, the role of MSME units is very important. I extend my congratulations to the award-winning units and their administration. I extend my best wishes to the enterprises for their further development both at the national and international level.

Banks are the life-line of MSME units as is the necessary finance provided by them. Today I am going to give awards to the three best banks for financing the MSME units. I extend my best wishes and greetings to them. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government will give all support for the growth of MSME units. The past regime allotted Rs.607.60 crore. We have gradually increased the amount to Rs. 1,505 crore.

Today, due to the efforts of MSME Department, 120 beneficiaries have got a subsidy of Rs.59.71 crore, MoUs have brought Rs. 1,510 crore, 49 award winners have gained Rs.12.50 crore, and three SIDCO industrial estates on 262 acres have come up at a cost of Rs.153.22 crore. Totally, investments worth Rs.1,723.05 crore have been confirmed. Through these, over 30,000 employment opportunities are likely to be created.

All these schemes were announced after the advent of the present Government for the development of MSME units.

We are planning these schemes as the Government is for equitable development of all areas for the growth of Tamil Nadu.

If these schemes are to be successful, we need your help, especially the MSMEs. On this International MSME Day, I extend my greetings to you and conclude my speech.

Nandri!

Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates three renovated Samathuvapurams

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, declared open 3 Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapurams renovated at a cost of Rs.3.12 crore in Tiruvallur, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli Districts, 5 Panchayat Union office buildings, 2 Integrated Rural Development building complexes, a Panchayat Office and a new bus stand in Cuddalore, Tiruppur, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Krishnagiri and Namakkal Districts, at a cost of Rs.34.76 crore.

In order to implement the social equality principle of Thanthai Periyar and with the aim of making all the communities to live in unity and brotherhood, 'Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram' was started in the year 1997 by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated completed projects of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department – 28.06.2023

Accordingly, between 1997-2001, 145 Samathuvapurams, and 93 Samathuvapurams between 2008-2011, a total of 238 Samathuvapurams, were commissioned. Out of these, 233 Samathuvapurams have been completed and are in use. Out of the remaining 5 Samathuvapurams, one was unfinished and 4

Samathuvapurams had not been made available for public use for the past 10 years.

As a result, two Samathuvapurams, one in Viluppuram District, Vanur Panchayat Union, Kozhuvari Panchayat and one in Sivagangai District, Singampunari Panchayat Union, Kannamangalapatti Panchayat, were completely renovated and declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin.

In continuation of that, at present, in the remaining three Samathuvapurams, minor repairs for 100 houses were carried out at an estimate of Rs.70.14 lakh, renovation works of other infrastructural facilities were carried out at an estimate of Rs.31.01 lakh, and works at a total estimate of Rs.101.15 lakh have been carried out in the Samathuvapuram located in Tiruvallur District, Pallipattu Panchayat Union, Ramasamudram Panchayat.

In the Samathuvapuram located in Tholar Panchayat, Nallur Panchayat Union, Cuddalore District, minor repairs for 78 houses have been carried out at a cost of Rs.71.44 lakh and renovation works of other infrastructure facilities has been done at a cost of Rs.26.50 lakh, totalling Rs.97.94 lakh.

In the Samathuvapuram located in Kattukulam Panchayat, Tiruchirappalli District, Musiri Panchayat Union, minor repairs for 100 houses were carried out at an estimate of Rs.87.40 lakh and renovation works of other infrastructural facilities at an estimate of Rs.25.41 lakh, with a total estimate of Rs.112.81 lakh.

The Samathuvapurams in the above Tiruvallur, Cuddalore and Tiruchirappalli Districts were renovated at a cost of Rs.3.12 crore and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who gave the keys of the houses to 5 beneficiaries from Tiruvallur District.

Also, for the convenience of the public who come to meet Panchayat Union Workers, Union Committee Members and Panchayat Union Officers, the project of constructing new Panchayat Union Office buildings to replace the old dilapidated buildings was introduced for the first time in 2008 by the Government led

by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. Accordingly, permission was given for the construction of 277 new Panchayat Union Office buildings, of which 211 buildings have been completed.

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated 5 Panchayat Union office buildings in Cuddalore District – Srimushnam Union at a cost of Rs.3.74 crore, Tiruppur District – Kangeyam Union at a cost of Rs.3.13 crore, Virudhunagar District – Virudhunagar Union at a cost of Rs.3.09 lakh, Tirunelveli District – Ambasamudram Union at a cost of Rs.2.91 crore, Dindigul District – Vadamadurai Union, built at a cost of Rs.3.07 lakh.

This Panchayat Union office building built with various facilities, has an area of 17,324 sq.ft., two floors, Panchayat Union meeting hall, training hall, rooms for Panchayat Union President and District Development Officers, separate office for Engineering Department, computer room and stationery storage room.

Also, in order to consolidate the District-level offices operating under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department in Krishnagiri and Namakkal Districts, Integrated Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department office buildings have been built at a cost of Rs.8 crore in Krishnagiri and Rs.8.20 crore in Namakkal, each with an area of 28,716 sq.ft., with separate rooms for various officers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the new bus stand on an area of 57,620 sq.ft. It has various facilities including separate bus-stands for 10 buses, passenger and goods loading and unloading platforms, passenger seating, drinking water, electricity facilities, toilets and a board showing the arrival and departure time of buses, at a cost of Rs.2.62 crore, to benefit the public, school and college students from 51 Villages in Cuddalore District – Nallur Union, Vepur Panchayat. ■

Hon’ble Chief Minister inspects renovated Thanthai Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin,** on his way to Mettur, Salem District, personally visited Thanthai Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram in Konur Panchayat, Nangavalli Panchayat Union on 11.06.2023, and enquired the residents there about the facilities available.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who visited Salem district on 10.06.2023 to participate in various Government functions and in the event of opening the shutters of the Mettur Dam, declared open the newly installed statue of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. At Perarignar Anna Park in Salem City, inaugurated the completed projects, laid the foundation stone for new projects and provided Government welfare assistance to beneficiaries in a Government function held at the Government Engineering College campus, Karuppur on 11.06.2023.

After that, on his way to Mettur in Salem District, the Hon’ble Chief Minister personally visited and inspected Thanthai Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram in Konur Panchayat, Nangavalli Panchayat Union which was opened in 1998 by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar.

According to the orders of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, funds have been allocated for the year 2021-2022 and whitewashing and minor repair works for 94 houses at a cost of Rs.47 lakh and repair works have been carried out for other public structures such as roads, drinking water facilities, playground, community hall, Anganwadi centre, Fair Price Shop and Samathuvapuram arch at a cost of Rs.44.20 lakh.

When the Hon’ble Chief Minister visited the Samathuvapuram and inspected it, he asked the people living there about the road facilities, drinking water facility, etc. At that time, the people expressed their sincere gratitude to the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for taking steps to renovate the Samathuvapuram, saying that all the facilities are good.

I left for Salem from Mettur. On the way, I visited the Periyar Ninaivu Samathuvapuram in Konur Panchayat under Nangavalli Panchayat Union.

In the year 2021-2022, we allocated funds for repair and renovation of houses and roads in this Samathuvapuram, which was inaugurated by the Leader of the Tamil race, Kalaignar in 1998.

Now I met the people there and enquired with them about the road and drinking water facilities. The people there said that all the facilities were good and thanked us for the renovation of Samathuvapuram.

The happiness seen on their faces should spread across the country and the country should become a Samathuvapuram. This was the dream of the Leader of Tamil race Kalaignar. My mind was pre-occupied with such thoughts.

In Kalaignar 100, let’s take his ideals to the people, make people aware of the ignorance that reigns to this day, and work to build an egalitarian society!

-Social media post of the
Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. M.K. Stalin – 11.06.2023.

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Micro finance scheme for SHG members

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates renovated Poomalai commercial complexes

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated Micro finance scheme for women -28.06.2023.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, at the Secretariat on 28.06.2023, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women, under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, declared open renovated Poomalai Commercial complexes in 26 Districts, renovated at a cost of Rs.5.16 crore and inaugurated the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Fund for Rs.50 crore, under the 'Vaazhndhu Kaattuvom' Scheme for women and distributed Rs.5.60 lakh loan totally to 10 Self Help Group members.

To market the products of Self Help Groups in urban areas, in all District Headquarters, District- level primary commercial complexes and additional complexes were constructed on the basis of requirements, under the golden village self-help employment scheme. Dr. Kalaignar named them as 'Poomalai Commercial Complex' and inaugurated them.

These commercial complexes were functioning in 29 districts, except in Ariyalur and Tiruppur District. To renovate these commercial complexes, which had not been maintained properly for many years, in the first phase, 29 commercial complexes, except the one at Perambalur, were renovated, 26 Districts at a total cost of Rs.5.16 crore. The complex at Nagapattinam was completely damaged. The Hon'ble Chief Minister directed that all these complexes should be painted in the same colour and renovated. As per the directive of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, these complexes were renovated, at a cost of Rs.5.16 crore.

For the economic development of people in rural areas, with the financial assistance of World Bank, Vazhndhu Kattuvom Scheme is

implemented in 3,994 Panchayats in 120 taluks in 31 Districts, except in Chennai, Thanjavur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Dharmapuri, Kanniyakumari and Tirupattur Districts.

Steps are taken through Vazhndhu Kattuvom Scheme to strengthen the micro enterprise units, by taking new initiatives so as to make entrepreneurs of women self-help groups by providing finance to them.

The Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, in the 2023-2024 budget speech for the demand Poverty Elimination and Rural Credit schemes, announced that in the current financial year, for women to start new industries and to expand the existing enterprises, the micro finance enterprise scheme is to be implemented, at a cost of Rs.50 crore in 1,000 villages through Panchayat Federations.

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed loans to 10 self-help group members in 10 Districts, for Rs.5.60 crore. In the current financial year, credit facilities to the tune of Rs.50 crore will be distributed.

The selected beneficiaries under the scheme, will be self-help group members in the taluks, where the Vazhndhu Kaattuvom Scheme is implemented and 30 per cent of them will be differently-abled and under-privileged persons. They will be given a loan up to a maximum Rs.70,000, based on their business plan. Those who are getting micro, small and medium enterprise funding can get enterprise development services through the Mathi Siragugal industries centres. ■

Inspection of the renovation works in the memorials at the Gandhi Mandapam premises

News in Picture

Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Development, Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan inspected the renovation works that are in the memorials at the premises of the Gandhi Mandapam, Chennai, on 03.07.2023. The Director of Information and Public Relations Thiru.D. Mohan, I.A.S., and other higher officials of the Department were present.

Hon’ble Sports Minister inaugurates scheme to provide bicycles to 11th standard students

Hon’ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development **Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin** inaugurates a scheme to distribute bicycles to students -10.07.2023

The Government of Tamil Nadu provides bicycles to all 11th standard students studying in Government, Government-aided schools and partially Government-aided schools on behalf of the Backward, Most Backward and Minorities Welfare Department, so that the students pursuing higher education can go to school without difficulty.

In the academic year 2022-2023, students who studied 11th standard in Government, Government-aided schools and partially Government-aided schools were provided bicycles in a function held at NKT National Girls Higher Secondary School on Besant Road, Triplicane, Chennai on 10.07.2023.

In this function, the Hon’ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, on behalf of the Backward, Most Backward and Minorities Welfare Department, inaugurated the scheme of providing bicycles to 4,89,600 students studying in the 11th standard, at a cost of Rs.235.92 crore, by making over bicycles to 10 students to mark the launch of this scheme. ■

Flying start to Birth Centenary Celebrations

of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar

Many lessons for the youth from Kalaignar's life

Kaviperarasu Vairamuthu

Average people die with death. But great men are born in death.

Now Kalaignar has been born as an ideal. Kalaignar saw three generations; now the third generation has understood his identity.

During his school days in Tiruvarur, Kalaignar and his friend once planned to swim across the breadth of the Kamalalayam Tank. When they were half way across the tank, his friend got tired and wanted to go back to the starting point. But Kalaignar pointed out that as they had crossed half the tank, only the other half remained.“Instead of swimming back, let us swim the remaining portion of the tank and succeed in our task,” he said. They swam through the remaining distance and succeeded in the task they had set out to achieve.

It is such perseverance that brought success not only to Kalaignar but also to Tamil Nadu. The youth of the State should learn this fighting spirit from Kalaignar.

Think differently is the second lesson of Kalaignar. In the film scripts of those days, Tamil was only rarely used. The script was mostly in Sanskrit. Tamil was used like cashew nuts in Sweet Pongal. Actors also spoke in Brahminical language. It was Dr.Kalaignar, who changed the trend. Honey flowed in the cinema theatres. From the drops of ink that came out of the pen of Kalaignar, stars were born.

Make all wisdom public – this is another lesson he teaches us.

“Mahatma Gandhi was the ‘apostle’ of non-violence. But he himself once wanted a calf that was suffering killed! This was because he could not bear to see it suffering”.

“King Akbar had married a Rajput Queen but he opposed his son Salim’s marriage to a dancer. What a contradiction!”

By giving such nuggets of information in his film dialogues, Kalaignar disseminated knowledge to the common folk and shaped their thinking.

Kalaignar transformed Tamil Nadu, which had only 19 per cent literacy among its 3 crore people, into a centre of education, through art.

The position that power brings is not a crown. It is the endlessly flowing cup of fulfillment (Amudha Surabhi) for the poor, who slog every day to make ends meet. This is the next lesson of Kalaignar.

Social Justice, Slum Clearance Board, Free Power. Waiving of Farm Loans, Abolition of hand-pulled rickshaw, Free house-site pattas. Allotment of land to the under-privileged, Free education, Classical Language status to Tamil. Building infrastructure in Tamil Nadu and international exposure to poor students through the two language formula. These are a few drops in the downpour of welfare measures that he rained for the poor.

Another lesson is, convert your sufferings into the energy that pulls you forward. The Anti-Hindi Agitation, Palayankottai imprisonment and sufferings during the Emergency. Kalaignar converted all such sufferings in his life into the fuel that powered his journey.

A Japanese volcano spews lava when it erupts and the lava spreads like river for many kilometres. People in the nearby villages vacate their houses and move away. After the lava turns into ashes, the people return and do agriculture in the land covered with ashes and get three times the normal yield. Same is the story in the case of Kalaignar also.

If you desire good, then do good. This is the next lesson from Kalaignar's life. The whole of Tamil Nadu was anxious that Kalaignar should get his place on the sands of the Marina. But I firmly believed that Kalaignar had done good and only good things would happen in his case.

Anna passed away on February 2, 1969 at 12:22 am. The then interim Chief Minister, Navalar announced that the body would be buried in Krishnampet Burial ground at 1.45 am. At 2.45 pm, Kalaignar, who was then the Minister of Public Works said the body would be buried on the Marina only. What Kalaignar said came to pass. It was Kalaignar who got a place for Anna on the shores of the Marina. The honour that Kalaignar rendered for Anna in 1969 was done for Kalaignar in 2018.

When he was admitted to Kaveri Hospital for the first time several months ago, I contacted him over telephone. He could speak then. I told him that I remembered him all the time. He said something but I did not follow. "What did he say?", I asked his assistant Nithya, who was near him. Nithya said that Kalaignar said that he too thought of me all the time. My tears began to flow that day and they continue to this day. Memories of Kalaignar will continue throughout my life.

- From the book
Niraindhu Vaazhum Kalaignar Ninaivu Malar 2019.

10,000 MT of wheat and dal per month sought to mitigate price impact on consumers

D.O. Letter of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Thiru. Piyush Goyal-11.07.2023.

I would like to draw your kind attention to the worrying trends witnessed in food inflation and urge you to take immediate steps to help the State Governments in mitigating the impact of the consumers.

The increase of prices of many essential food commodities including rice, wheat, tur dal, urad dal and vegetables like tomato has burdened poor and middle-class families immensely. Already the inflation rate, as released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program implementation, was high at 12.65% for cereals and products and 6.56% for pulses and products, during the month of May 2023. The recent surge is likely to substantially worsen this situation.

Our Government is taking up various short-term and long-term price intervention measures like supplying vegetables, food grains and pulses well below the open market price through co-operative outlets and Uzhavar Sandhais (Farmers' Markets). We also supply dal, sugar and palmolein every month at highly subsidized rates for all cardholders through PDS outlets. Our State is also supplying rice and wheat free of cost beyond the NFSA coverage through our Universal PDS mechanism. Further, regular monitoring of stock limits of dal, urad dal, moong dal, gram dal, masoor dal and wheat is also being done as per the directions of Government of India.

In spite of these efforts, the prices of the select essential food commodities have increased, as a part of the nationwide inflationary trend. I had a detailed review meeting on this issue on 10.07.2023 and various instructions have been issued regarding supply of vegetables, groceries through the super markets / fair price shops run by the Co-operative Department and Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.

We have floated bids for procuring some of the above items from domestic or foreign producers and they are in process. In this regard, I request you to kindly expedite Union Government's efforts to import these products, in view of the shortage in domestic production. In the meanwhile, supply from the central stock can ease the situation. Hence, I request you to allot 10,000 MT each of wheat and dal per month from the central stock. These items will be sold through co-operative outlets to cool the prices. I urge your immediate intervention in this regard.

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks increase in copra procurement from Tamil Nadu

D.O. Letter of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin,** addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi** with regard to procurement of Copra-10.07.2023.

I wish to invite your kind attention to an important issue relating to copra procurement in Tamil Nadu. Innumerable requests have been received from the coconut growers across the State to increase the procurement target under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) of Government of India.

Under the Price Support Scheme of Government of India, commodities like red gram, green gram, black gram and copra are procured to ensure Minimum Support Price to the farmers and to stabilize the market prices. In Tamil Nadu, the PSS procurement is done by National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), an organisation of Government of India.

Tamil Nadu stands third in area and productivity and second in production of coconut at the national level with an area of 4.46 lakh hectare, production of 53,518 lakh nuts and productivity of 11,692 nuts per hectare.

Though copra procurement under PSS was initiated in the year 2019 in Tamil Nadu, the procurement was negligible during the initial years as the market prices were well above the MSP. However, from 2022 onwards, the trend reversed due to increased production of coconut. As a result, the market price of coconut declined from about Rs.2,500 per quintal to Rs.1,500 per quintal. Similarly, the market price of copra declined from nearly Rs.11,500 per quintal to Rs.8,100 per quintal. This has resulted in spike in the procurement of copra under PSS in the year 2022 and current year.

Under PSS, in the current year so far within a span of just three months from April to June 2023, 47,513 MT of copra has been procured against the target of 56,000 MT and still three months of procurement season i.e., July to September 2023 are remaining. As there are still huge stocks of copra available with farmers and the market prices continue to rule low, several representations are received from the farmers across the State to increase the quantity of procurement under PSS.

Hence, I request you to kindly issue necessary instructions to the concerned Ministry to enhance the quantity ceiling from the existing 25 per cent to 40 per cent for procurement of copra in the current season till September 2023 and also to increase the procurement target from 56,000 MT to 90,000 MT for the State of Tamil Nadu, which will help in stabilizing the market price of copra and thus will benefit the coconut growers in the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister seeks Hon'ble Prime Minister's direction to CCI on cotton procurement

D.O. Letter of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi,** regarding commencement of Cotton Procurement and Kharif MSP for Cotton - 07.07.2023

I would like to invite your kind attention to the dire situation faced by the cotton farmers of Tamil Nadu who are currently facing a steep fall in the prices of cotton during the ongoing harvest season. The previous year proved to be highly profitable for cotton farmers as they were able to sell cotton at a rate of Rs.12,000 per quintal. Encouraged by this, a large number of farmers opted for cotton cultivation this year. However, these farmers now find themselves in difficult situation due to steep decline in prices, which have plummeted to Rs.5,500 per quintal.

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by Government of India plays a crucial role in stabilizing the prices of agricultural commodities. The procurement operations of Cotton Corporation of India at Minimum Support Price in the past few years in Tamil Nadu have been immensely helpful in stabilizing the cotton prices. Recently, the Government of India has fixed the MSP of Medium staple cotton as Rs.6,620 per quintal and Long staple cotton as Rs.7,020 per quintal for the year 2023-2024, with an increase of Rs.540 and Rs.640 per quintal respectively over the previous year.

Tamil Nadu has two unique seasons for cotton viz., rice fallow and summer-irrigated wherein the sowing is done in February-March and it is harvested from 1st week of June onwards. Cotton crop has been raised in around 84,000 acre in these two seasons.

With the harvest of rice fallow cotton in full swing, there have been pleas from Tamil Nadu farmers to invite Cotton Corporation of India to start its procurement operations in Tamil Nadu and also to advance the adherence of Kharif MSP for cotton to 1st June every year in view of falling cotton prices to Rs.5,500 per quintal.

In view of the above, while thankfully recalling the support rendered by you in advancing the MSP of Paddy by one month last year when the Kuruvai paddy season was advanced by a month, I request you to kindly direct the Cotton Corporation of India to commence cotton procurement in Tamil Nadu and also to direct the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare henceforth to make the Kharif MSP for cotton effective from 1st June onwards in Tamil Nadu in the coming years.

This gesture will provide the much-needed relief to the distressed cotton growers in the State by stabilizing prices and ensuring fair income for their produce.

Union Government's attention drawn to apprehension of Tamil Nadu fishermen

D.O. Letter of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** to the Hon'ble Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar-10.07.2023

I want to bring to your attention a matter of utmost importance that requires urgent diplomatic intervention. It concerns the recent apprehension of 15 fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy and the confiscation of their fishing boats, which has caused distress and fear among the fishing community in our region. The fishermen had ventured out for fishing in their boats bearing registration numbers IND-TN-10-MM-677 and IND-TN-10-MM-913 and were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy on 09.07.2023.

As you are aware, thousands of fishermen's livelihoods depend on fishing activities in the waters near the Indo-Sri Lankan maritime boundary. They solely rely on fishing to sustain their families and communities. Unfortunately, incidents of apprehension by the Sri Lankan Navy have become distressingly frequent, plunging the fishermen and their families into deep anguish and uncertainty.

I request your esteemed office to intervene diplomatically with the Sri Lankan authorities to secure the immediate release of our apprehended fishermen and the return of all the fishing boats that have been seized. Through diplomatic channels, we can reach an amicable resolution that respects the rights and livelihoods of our fishermen while maintaining friendly bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka.

I eagerly await a positive response from your office.

News in Picture

The Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated the newly appointed Director General of Police

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** congratulated Thiru. Shankar Jiwal, I.P.S., who has taken charge as the Director General of Police, at the camp office on 01.07.2023.

The Hon'ble Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development **Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin,** on behalf of the Backward Class, Most Backward Class and Minorities Welfare Department, distributed bicycles to 10 students as a token of inaugurating the scheme for the distribution of 4,89,600 bicycles worth Rs. 235.92 crore, to 11th standard students of Government-aided and partly Government-aided schools, at the N.K.T. National Girls Higher Secondary School, Chennai on 10.07.2023.

Tamilarasu

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the Agri Business Fest 2023 and opened the Pavilions of Farmer Producer Organisations, at the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam on 08.07.2023.

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